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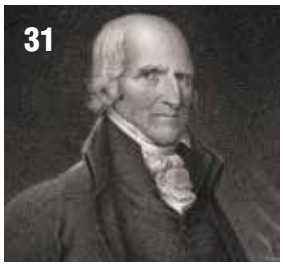

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A Note to Our Readers

Are you better off today than you were in 2020? I wager that few readers of *The New American*, or many other Americans for that matter, would say that they are. Bidenomics has laid waste to middle-class American prosperity.

On October 12, the House Budget Committee published a press release noting that total inflation under Biden has exceeded 17 percent. Committee chairman Jodey Arrington (R-Texas) noted that "a family of four is paying $15,133 per year, or $1,261 per month, more to purchase the same goods and services compared to the day President Biden took office." "Every day," Arrington continued, "they are being forced to choose between medicine or the rent, putting food on the table or gas in the car. The American people cannot afford this Administration's failed economic agenda."

These outrageous increases are impacting businesses as well as individuals, and *The New American* is not immune. Due to rapidly increasing costs of production and delivery, we have been forced to raise the price of this magazine. As a result, we are raising our cover price by $1 per issue. We are also increasing the price of subscriptions, particularly for digital and combo subscriptions.

This is the first increase in the price of *The New American* in nearly a decade. However, I am happy to announce that *no additional costs will be passed on to existing subscribers*.

You heard that right: If you are already a subscriber, you can continue to renew your subscription at the prices we set well before Trump's 2016 election. If you are a subscriber to our combo or digital subscription, moreover, you will continue to have access to everything you have been getting in the past plus all of the new subscriber-only premium content that we will be launching in the future.

Of course, the reason you subscribe to *The New American* remains unchanged, and that is to get access to the insightful analysis from our authors and experts that is simply not available anywhere else. As an example, regarding this issue of *The New American* magazine, we strongly suggest you immediately direct your attention to the cover story on the latest developments in the frightful war between Israel and Hamas, which threatens to expand to other nations in the region.

This exclusive report has been prepared by Executive Senior Editor Steve Bonta, who is uniquely qualified to cover such world events. Fluent in multiple languages and having lived and worked as a scholar in several nations, including Communist China, Bonta brings his uniquely well-informed international experience to bear in his analysis of events in the Middle East today. Also of note in this issue is coverage and analysis of events (and *non*-events) in Congress swirling around the speaker chair left empty by the ouster of Kevin McCarthy. Then there's a hard look at the ongoing Synod on Synodality that, Catholic sources warn, is out of step with millennia of Catholic teaching and tradition. And not to be missed is noted historian Thomas DiLorenzo's exploration into the history of American corporate welfare and associated political malfeasance that, interested readers will discover, was not invented by our current gerontocracy, though they certainly remain the beneficiaries of modern versions of such graft today, much to our chagrin as citizens of the Republic.

— *Dennis Behreandt*

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Microsoft Completes Activision Purchase

On October 13, Microsoft completed its acquisition of popular video-game maker Activision Blizzard, known for hits such as *Call of Duty*, *World of Warcraft*, *Guitar Hero*, and *Candy Crush Saga*. The $69 billion deal is going down in history as one of the most expensive tech purchases ever, and is making waves throughout the video-game industry.

The acquisition took almost 22 months, as multiple governmental regulatory bodies feared Microsoft's cornering of one of the biggest video-game producers would allow it to suffocate the competition. However, Microsoft defended itself by saying its aim is to simply make Activision games available on more platforms, not take games away from rival producers.

Arsenii Palivoda/iStock/Getty Images Plus

The deal's completion came after the U.K.'s competition watchdog, the Competition and Markets Authority, walked back its earlier decision to block the consolidation of the two companies.

The U.S. Federal Trade Commission (FTC) continues to oppose the merger. "The FTC continues to believe this deal is a threat to competition," spokeswoman Victoria Graham said October 13, as reported by The Associated Press. Although the FTC lost an earlier court battle to put a hold on the agreement, it is appealing that ruling and attempting to undo the deal.

Prior to the Activision acquisition, the biggest tech deal in history took place when Dell bought data-storage company EMC in 2016 for a sum of $60 billion. Microsoft's previous biggest buy was the professional networking platform LinkedIn for $26 billion.

Activision isn't Microsoft's first purchase of a video-game publisher. Last year, it acquired ZeniMax Media — which makes *The Elder Scrolls* and *Fallout* — for $7.5 billion, and in 2014, it purchased Swedish developer Mojang Studio, which makes the popular sandbox game *Minecraft*.

It's not yet clear whether the FTC's last-ditch effort to stop Microsoft's Activision purchase will be successful. Regardless, Microsoft's victory — permanent or momentary — is exemplary of the trend toward consolidation and even monopoly in today's Silicon Valley landscape, a trend that could prove dangerous for competition and consumers in the long term.

Cornel West to Run for President as Independent

According to a *Politico* report on October 13, Cornel West, the left-wing activist and philosopher known for his unique blend of democratic socialism, black-church Christianity, and race theory, put an abrupt end to his relationship with the Green Party on October 5. Despite the party preparing the infrastructure to get him on the ballot in every state and provide him with a ground game, West declared he will run as an Independent. He had previously left the ticket of the People's Party after just 11 days with them.

West suggested the Green Party did not fit the type of campaign he wanted to run or the type of voters he wanted to court, hinting that the party is too white and too old. "Young people have not been that tied to the Greens at all. Black people have not been that tied to the Greens at all. Brown people, trade union people, they haven't been that tied to the Greens at all," he said.

For the Green Party, however, West's background and messaging were precisely what they were hoping to incorporate into the party — their relationship with West was an effort to merge the environmental platform they are known for with his social-justice activism. In essence, a West candidacy would have made the Green Party the quintessential ticket for the American far-left/progressive movement.

Even as an Independent, there is little chance of Cornel West becoming president. Although there is a demand within the American Left for candidates who are more progressive than Joe Biden, most liberal voters remain pragmatic and are reluctant to cast their ballots for someone other than the Democratic nominee, as their focus is on keeping Trump out of the White House.

For instance, a September poll from NBC News found that only 38 percent of those who say they are voting for Biden are doing so because of him specifically; 58 percent said they were voting more *against* Trump than *for* Biden.

Cornel West

AP Images

Girl Raped by Boy in School Bathroom Sues School Board

The Daily Caller reported on October 6 that a girl who was sexually assaulted by a skirt-sporting boy in a Loudoun County, Virginia, high-school bathroom two years ago is suing the school board for $30 million after school officials covered up the assault and retaliated against her for reporting it.

The now-17-year-old graduate of Loudoun County Public Schools (LCPS) (known as Jane Doe, or "Jane") and her parents filed a lawsuit on October 4 charging the Loudoun County School Board with violations of Title IX, which prohibits schools receiving federal funding from discriminating on the basis of sex, requires them to investigate claims of sexual assault, and forbids them from retaliating against students who report such incidents.

In 2021, Jane was sexually assaulted by a 14-year-old boy in a girls' restroom at LCPS's Stone Bridge High School. The boy, who claimed to be "gender fluid" and was wearing a skirt, was allowed to enter the restroom and remain there thanks to LCPS's transgender-friendly bathroom policy.

Jane reported the assault to school officials, who not only allowed her assailant to roam the school for more than three hours after the incident, but refused to report the assault to law enforcement. The lawsuit notes that officials were already aware that the girl's assailant "had inappropriate sexual contact with another student a few years earlier on school grounds" — yet they allowed the boy to return to school the day after the assault.

Additionally, after Jane was threatened and even physically attacked by fellow students for reporting the assault, the school's solution was not to discipline the bullies, but to make Jane change her class schedule.

The family is asking the court to declare the school board's conduct a violation of Title IX. They are also seeking $30 million for payment of expenses related to the assault (they say Jane spent two weeks in the hospital for "physical, mental, and emotional trauma") and as damages for the loss of educational opportunities and ongoing emotional and mental suffering.

Zolnierek/iStock/Getty Images Plus

Stockholm to Ban Gas and Diesel Cars From City Center

Reuters reported on October 10 that Sweden's capital, Stockholm, will ban all cars that run exclusively on gasoline or diesel fuel in certain parts of the city by the end of 2024. The ban will encompass 20 blocks of Stockholm's central city, including its finance and main shopping districts. Once initiated, the city plans to expand the no gas/no diesel zone further; a decision on how much further is expected in the middle of 2025.

As of December 31 of next year, the only personal vehicles allowed in the new "Environmental Zone Class 3" will be electric-powered. Excluded from the ban thus far are motorcycles and mopeds, hybrid vehicles that meet current European emissions standards, ambulances, and vehicles with a driver or passenger with a documented disability. Fines for running afoul of the gas/diesel ban will be steep.

f11photo/iStock/Getty Images Plus

The announced reason for the ban is to improve air quality in the city. "Poor air quality damages the lungs of infants and causes the elderly to die prematurely. We need to eliminate the harmful exhaust gasses from petrol and diesel cars. That's why we are introducing the most ambitious low-emission zone to date," said Lars Strömgren, vice mayor for transport and urban environment of the City of Stockholm.

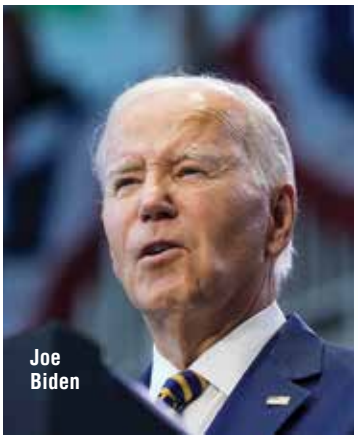
While climate change was not specifically mentioned as a reason for the ban, Stockholm is run by a coalition including Sweden's Green Party and other left-wing parties. The Greens have said that they hope the Stockholm ban will quicken the nation's switch to all-electric vehicles. The country has a long-term goal of net-zero emissions by 2045, and along the way they look to have emissions 63-percent lower than 1990 levels by 2030, and 75-percent lower by 2040.

Even Sweden's Green Party realizes that this is a big ask of the citizenry with regard to the made-up crisis of climate change. This is why they're linking the ban to supposed air-quality issues, dying elderly, and disabled infants instead of climate change. ■

President Claims He Has No Choice but to Build Border Wall

"The border wall — the money was appropriated for the border wall. I tried to get to them to reappropriate it, to redirect that money. They didn't. They wouldn't. And in the meantime, there's nothing under the law other than they have to use the money for what it was appropriated. I can't stop that."

President **Joe Biden** *provided the above excuse for building 17 miles of border wall after being reminded that he had pledged not to build another foot of wall. When asked if he believes that the border wall works, he provided a one-word answer, "No." But his budget requests for fiscal 2023 say otherwise: "The border wall system impedes and denies illicit cross-border activity by allowing law enforcement an increased response time and greater opportunity for successful law enforcement resolution."*


Joe Biden

AP Images

Residents Insist Biden's Border Wall Is Being Built in the Wrong Place

"We were told that this was to curtail the flow of illegal immigrants into the country. If that is the case, and that's what it's for, then it's being built in the wrong place."

Starr County, Texas, is the area chosen by President Biden and his team of advisors for building 17 miles of fencing. **Eloy Vera**, *the county's top official, is not alone in pointing to the much-greater need for fencing at El Paso or Eagle Pass, where a thousand illegal immigrants cross the Rio Grande into Texas every day. The choice of Starr County for his 17 miles of fencing provides President Biden with a response to critics of his de facto open-borders policy.*

Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.

AP Images

Kennedy Announces His Candidacy for President as an Independent

"The Democrats are frightened that I'm going to spoil the election for President Biden, and the Republicans are frightened that I'm going to spoil it for Trump. The truth is that they're both right. My intention is to spoil it for both of them."

Speaking to a crowd of supporters in Philadelphia on October 9, **Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.** *said that his populist-style candidacy represented "a movement that defies left-right division."*

Author Claims Climate Science Has Been Hijacked and Politicized

"Activists have created a culture of self-censorship that's enforced by a code of silence that Steven Koonin likens to the Mafia's omerta."

Steven Koonin authored Unsettled: What Climate Science Tells Us, What It Doesn't, and Why It Matters. *Climatologist* **Judith Curry** *has praised Koonin's work and authored her own study of the topic in an important book entitled* Climate Uncertainty and Risk: Rethinking Our Response. *These two climatologists are among a growing number of colleagues who capably dispute the claims of political writers, government officials, and UN fright peddlers who are attempting to scare the public into advocacy of useless and dangerous methods of curing a problem that doesn't exist.*

America's Open Border Causes Many Serious Problems

"Every state has become a border state under current policies."

Alabama Governor **Kay Ivey** *pointed to the harmful consequences of the Biden administration's disastrous open-border policy in a warning to governors of other states. She has deployed hundreds of Alabama's National Guard to deal with the escalating situation.* ■

— Compiled by John F. McManus

Kay Ivey

AP Images

BEHIND THE ISRAEL-GAZA WAR

There's a lot more to the long and bloody history of Israel and Gaza than meets the eye, including communist subversion, Nazi ideology — and U.S. interventionism.

by Steve Bonta

At dawn on October 7, a sprawling music festival was underway outside the southwestern Israeli settlement of Re'im kibbutz, roughly three miles from the border of the Gaza Strip. Founded in 1949, Re'im had a population of a little more than 400 people. But thousands more had turned up for the Supernova music festival, an event intended to honor the Jewish holiday of Sukkot. At about 6:30 in the morning, the sky above the partygoers filled with rockets out of Gaza, and air-raid sirens began wailing. From long experience of such periodic bombardments, most of those at the festival knew that staying outdoors was usually the safest option during a rocket attack. Milling around uneasily, they waited for the latest attack to subside, taking videos of the rockets flashing overhead.

Some of the videos, however, captured something else: black dots in the sky across the countryside that, unbeknownst to the many doomed spectators, were airborne Hamas commandos riding paragliders deep into Israeli territory, the vanguard of a larger ground invasion that was to come.

About half an hour after the rocket barrage had begun, the partygoers began to hear approaching gunfire and explosions, and the word ran swiftly through the crowds: The terrorists are coming! The more fortunate ones acted immediately, jumping into cars and fleeing the scene at breakneck speeds. Others began running across the open fields, now fully aware that something far worse than rockets was closing in fast. Within minutes, scores of heavily armed Hamas militants converged on the festival grounds from the west and north and began firing indiscriminately with automatic weapons and RPGs at the crowds of people. Moving quickly, they surrounded large groups of partiers who had not been quick enough to escape and began methodically massacring them. Dashcam videos from parked cars recorded additional horrors: people cowering behind and inside vehicles shot to death at point blank range, while others were dragged, bloody and screaming, into the terrorists' vehicles for transport back to Gaza.

Steve Bonta is executive senior editor of The New American.

The bitter mutual hatred and distrust between Palestinians and Israelis was inflamed by the creation of the modern state of Israel in 1948, but rival claims to the Holy Land are complex and go back centuries.

AP Images

Aftermath: Destroyed vehicles at the site of the Supernova concert where at least 260 concertgoers were butchered by Hamas terrorists on the morning of October 7.

Many of the partygoers fled into a large eucalyptus forest, only to be callously hunted and murdered as they sought refuge among the trees. A few who climbed high in the trees were overlooked and survived the carnage. In all, at least 260 people at the festival were slaughtered in the worst single episode of civilian mass murder in modern Israel's bloody history, and countless others were taken into captivity, to be held as bargaining chips and human shields against the Israeli retaliation that was sure to follow.

But as awful as the events at Re'im were that morning, even worse barbarities were unfolding elsewhere, as more than a thousand Hamas militants systematically fanned out across the countryside, murdering every human being they could find, regardless of age, sex, ethnicity, or combatant status. Unprepared local policemen and security guards were gunned down, but so were hundreds of unarmed elderly, women, and children cowering inside safe rooms and even sleeping in their beds. Some of the worst atrocities were reserved for the most innocent, with documented instances of small children and infants being burned alive in front of their parents, or being forced to watch as their parents were killed in various sadistic fashions. Some children and infants were even beheaded. And elderly Holocaust survivors were butchered with indifference. Masses of people discovered

hiding in basements and public shelters were slaughtered with grenades and machine-gun fire.

When Israeli Defense Forces finally retook the area from Hamas after more than a day of bitter fighting, they found a nightmare landscape had replaced the tranquil fields, villages, and kibbutzim of southwestern Israel. More than a thousand bodies, many of them hideously mutilated by every depraved artifice of the sadistic marauders, filled burned out buildings and cars, and were strewn across fields, roads, and streets. The stench of blood and death was everywhere. Destroyed cars littered the roadways and parking lots, and many homes and public buildings lay in partial or total ruin. And any doubts over the scope of what had happened were rapidly dispelled by myriad videos depicting the gleeful slaughter, posted online to a rapturous reception by Hamas supporters worldwide.

All in all, the events of October 7 mark the darkest day in Jewish history since the Holocaust. For the first time since the 1948 war that followed the creation of modern Israel, enemy military forces invaded Israeli soil and inflicted massive damages on the civilian population. The death toll is still rising as of this writing, but more than 1,300 Israelis, as well as a significant number of visiting foreigners, were killed on that day, while the military retaliation against Gaza soon more than doubled the number of fatalities in what is sure to be a protracted and bloody conflict. At least 30 American citizens are known to be among the dead, along with an indeterminate number taken hostage in Gaza. Twenty-one citizens of Thailand, who were in Israel as migrant workers, also perished in the indiscriminate carnage. And following Israel's first official declaration of war in 50 years, the Israeli government has agreed to put aside the bitter partisan infighting of the last 10 months and form a unity wartime government.

Uncertain at the time of this writing is how far the war may spread. After issuing strong statements of solidarity with Israel, a suddenly energized President Biden dispatched a carrier strike group to the eastern Mediterranean, led by America's newest, largest, and most modern aircraft carrier, the USS *Gerald R. Ford*. A second carrier strike group led by the USS *Dwight D. Eisenhower* is also en route at the time of this writing. Amid increasing fighting with Hezbollah forces along Israel's northern border and Israeli air force raids on Syrian airfields, the possibility of a wider, multi-front war, possibly even extending to Iran and its supporters, cannot be ruled out. While the Biden administration is warning Iran not to get involved and cautioning Israel to abide by the rules of war, there is no question that the dogs of war have already slipped their leashes. In the permanent conflagration of the Middle East, it is impossible to tell how far the flames of destruction may spread.

To no one's surprise, the Netanyahu-led Israeli government lost no time unleashing retaliatory strikes for the appalling deed. Targeted bombardment of Gaza, which has brought down a number of high-rise buildings, has been ongoing since Day 1, and large numbers of tanks and infantry are poised to enter Gaza to conduct ground operations. Skirmishes with Hezbollah along the northern border have already taken a toll, and are likely to open a second front. But as of this writing, both Israel and the United States have refrained from taking any direct action against Iran, the regime most directly responsible for financing, supplying, and training Hamas (and Hezbollah).

AP Images

Birthed in war: The partly destroyed Jewish agency building in Palestine, heavily damaged by a bomb in March 1948, soon before the modern state of Israel declared its independence on May 14. The following day, a coalition of Arab countries, including Egypt, Iraq, and Transjordan, invaded the new country and launched a 10-month war.

A Look Back

The bitter mutual hatred and distrust between Palestinians and Israelis was inflamed by the creation of the modern state of Israel in 1948, but rival claims to the Holy Land are complex and go back centuries. Since the expulsion of most of the Jews from Roman Judea in the first century A.D., the region has changed hands many times, falling under the Christian rule of the Eastern Roman Empire (or Byzantine Empire) for several centuries before being conquered by Muslims in 637. During the Byzantine period, there were Jewish communities recorded in various parts of Palestine. The land was then retaken by Christian forces in 1099 during the First Crusade, by which time there was a substantial Jewish presence in the area once again. When Godfrey of Bouillion's victorious crusader army overran Jerusalem, putting most of the resident population to the sword, among them was a Jewish population and a thriving synagogue.

When the Zionist movement arose in the 19th century and European Jews began migrating to Palestine, then under control of the Ottoman Turks, they joined the so-called Yishuv Jews already living there. Following the defeat of the Ottomans in World War I, the British took control of the region, styled Mandatory Palestine, and tried to govern in a manner that acknowledged the rights of both Jews and Palestinians. This arrangement satisfied no one, with both Arabs and Jews conducting insurgencies against the British authorities. The Balfour Declaration of 1917 had already made clear that British policy was to favor the creation of a Jewish state in the Middle East, an aim that became politically feasible after the extreme horrors unleashed against European Jews by the Holocaust — and the comparative inactivity of many Allied governments to give refuge to Jews fleeing Nazi pogroms.

Immediately following the declaration of an independent Jewish state on May 14, 1948, five surrounding Arab nations launched a war against Israel in an attempt to preemptively obliterate what they regarded as an illegitimate regime run by interlopers. Israel prevailed against its enemies, and since then has fought many wars large and small against both neighboring states (including the 1967 Six-Day War, the 1973 Yom Kippur War, and the 1982 Lebanon War) and terrorist factions such as Hamas and Hezbollah.

While many outside of the Middle East have tended to favor a "two-state solution" to the problem — i.e., the establishment of separate states for the Jews and for the Palestinians — attitudes among these two groups have hardened to the point where majorities on both sides now favor a "one-state solution" that would completely exclude the other side.

Regardless of any abstract justice that may attach to the Palestinian cause, they have done themselves no service over the years by frequently resorting to terrorist tactics, of which the barbarities perpetrated on October 7 by Hamas were but the latest and most brutal, but far from the only, example. Beginning in the 1970s, the Palestinian terrorist organization Black September unleashed a decade and a half of international havoc, deliberately targeting Americans as well as Israelis. On November 11, 1971, for example, Black September bombed the Intercontinental Hotel in Amman, Jordan, in an attempt to murder Americans staying there. Less than three weeks later, they assassinated the prime minister of Jordan in Cairo. The following May, they hijacked a Sabena Airlines flight and diverted it to Tel Aviv. Israeli commandoes stormed the plane, and one passenger and two terrorists were killed in the ensuing gun battle. In September 1972, one of the most notorious terrorist attacks of the 20th century took place at the Summer Olympic Games being held in Munich. Eight heavily armed Black September terrorists killed two members of the Israeli Olympic team and took nine others as hostages after infiltrating the Olympic village by night. The armed standoff that followed received global news coverage. When German authorities attempted to rescue the hostages as they boarded helicopters at a nearby airport, a fierce battle with the heavily armed terrorists ensued, in which the Palestinians slaughtered all nine of the Israeli hostages before being mostly gunned down themselves. Three Palestinians survived and were taken into custody, but Germany was forced to release them only weeks later when terrorists hijacked a Lufthansa flight and threatened to kill everyone aboard unless the terrorists were set free.

AP Images

Terror in Munich: This destroyed German helicopter was where Palestinian terrorists of the Black September organization slaughtered Israeli athletes taken hostage during the Summer Olympic Games in Munich in 1972. The so-called Munich Massacre remains one of the most abhorrent acts of terrorism committed by Palestinian extremists against Israeli civilians.

During this period, Black September began a campaign of targeting Israeli officials and prominent Jews worldwide with letter bombs. And their terrorism became more brazen and creative. In February 1973, Israeli officials authorized the shooting down of a Libyan passenger plane that had strayed into Israel's airspace near Tel Aviv, because of intelligence warning that Black September was planning to crash a hijacked plane into the Israeli capital. In March, terrorists attacked the Saudi embassy in Khartoum, Sudan, during a formal reception for an American diplomatic delegation. When President Nixon refused to negotiate with the terrorists, they promptly murdered both Cleo Noel, the U.S. ambassador to Sudan, and George Curtiss Moore, the U.S. deputy chief of mission, along with a Belgian diplomat. The remaining terrorists surrendered to local authorities, and ended up serving light sentences in an

Egyptian jail, despite U.S. demands that they be put to death.

In August of that same year, terrorists attacked the international airport in Athens, Greece, with submachine guns and grenades, targeting passengers waiting to board a flight to New York that they believed was bound for Israel. Three people were killed, 55 were wounded, and many others were taken hostage in a standoff that lasted for several hours before the terrorists surrendered.

In 1976, a new Palestinian terror group, the PFLP-EO, with the help of a couple of German terrorists, hijacked an El-Al flight from Paris to Tel Aviv at the Athens airport. The flight was eventually diverted to Entebbe, Uganda, where it was welcomed both by more terrorists and by Uganda's horrifying dictator Idi Amin, who sent more than 100 Ugandan soldiers to help the terrorists. They segregated Israelis from non-Israelis and sent the latter back to Europe, with the clear intent of killing the remaining 106 hostages unless their demands were met. The Israelis sent a large commando force to Uganda, which included Yonatan Netanyahu, the older brother of Benjamin Netanyahu, Israel's current prime minister. Under cover of darkness, the Israelis launched a daring raid against both the terrorists and the Ugandan soldiers that supported them, killing all seven of the hijackers and 45 Ugandan soldiers, as well as destroying a large part of Uganda's air force on the ground. Of the 106 hostages, 102 were rescued, and only one Israeli soldier was killed — Yonatan Netanyahu. Because Kenya had assisted Israel in the operation, Amin ordered all Kenyans living in Uganda to be slaughtered, resulting in the massacre of about 250 Kenyans and the hasty expatriation of 3,000 more.

The pageant of terrorist violence continued into the '80s, with various Palestinian-linked groups continuing the steady toll of hijackings, hostage-taking, bombings, and attacks on Israeli settlers. One of the most notorious was the hijacking by terrorists from the Palestine Liberation Front of an Italian cruise ship, the *Achille Lauro*, in 1985, during which the hijackers callously murdered a 68-year-old, wheelchair-bound Jewish-American named Leon Klinghoffer, and then dumped his body in the sea, one of many murders of innocent civilians that served to further discredit the Palestinian cause in the West.

AP Images

Flames of hatred: This picture of an Israeli flag being torched by Hamas supporters was taken in 2005, when the organization was trying to gain political legitimacy among Palestinians. But far-sighted observers, including Muslim clerics, have been warning for decades about Hamas' extreme radicalism and penchant for violence.

Israel, U.S. Spawn Terrorism

Back then, Yasser Arafat and his Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), along with its political arm, Fatah, were the main face of both Palestinian political activism and militancy. Arafat and the PLO received substantial support from Communist regimes, and Fatah, in the words of *The Washington Post's* Ishaan Tharoor, "was secular and cast in the mold of other revolutionary, leftist guerrilla movements waging insurgencies elsewhere in the world during the Cold War." Given the campaign of steady assassinations and other terror attacks carried out by the secular, leftist PLO, Israel decided to begin supporting Islamist groups, hoping they would act as a counterpoise against PLO and Fatah. While Fatah was based primarily in the West Bank, the Islamist groups that interested Israeli authorities were mostly in Gaza. This strategy of pitting radical Islamist fundamentalists against the international secular Left backed by the Soviet Union was similar to America's strategy of arming a motley assortment of Islamist militants to fight the Soviet forces occupying Afghanistan.

And it had similar results. Just as American support of Islamists in Afghanistan ended up spawning both al-Qaeda and the Taliban, who had no regard for the Western hand that fed them, so Israel's campaign to officially recognize and build up a fundamentalist Islamist organization called Mujama Al-Islamiya in the 1970s led to the creation of Hamas the following decade. At first, Israeli support took the form of registering the group as a charity, encouraging the founding of an Islamic university, and allowing the organization to set up schools, clubs, and mosques. Israel turned a blind eye to the growing radicalism of a certain paraplegic, blind cleric named Sheikh Yassin, the leader of the Muslim Brotherhood in Palestine. Despite being warned by other Islamic clerics that Yassin was dangerous to deal with, the Israelis continued to support the movement. It was these actions that prompted Avner Cohen, an Israeli official with long experience working in Gaza, to tell *The Wall Street Journal* that

"Hamas, to my great regret, is Israel's creation." He also recalled meeting in the early 1970s with a traditional Muslim cleric who advised him to stop cooperating with the Muslim Brotherhood. "He told me: 'You are going to have big regrets in 20 or 30 years.' He was right."

Sure enough, Hamas, which was officially founded in 1987, abducted and murdered two Israeli soldiers in 1989, the event that marked the beginning of their long reign of terror. In response, Israel arrested Sheikh Yassin and sentenced him to life in prison. They also rounded up several hundred other suspected Hamas members and deported them to Lebanon — where they immediately joined another fledgling terror group, Iranian-backed Hezbollah.

The 1990s and early 2000s were marked by almost constant, low-grade warfare between Hamas and Israel, punctuated by occasional mass Palestinian uprisings, or "intifadas," across the country. The most severe of these, the Second Intifada that began in September 2000, was led by the al-Qassam Brigades, terrorist hit squads that carried out bombings and assassinations throughout the so-called occupied territories against a backdrop of rioting and bloodshed that ended up costing more than 5,000 Palestinian and more than 1,000 Israeli lives over the next five years.

These events, of course, coincided with the early years of the United States' own War on Terror. Because the upheaval in the Holy Land complicated America's efforts to obtain the cooperation of Arab states for her own campaign in Iraq, the Bush administration quietly pressured Israel to seek some sort of normalization with the Palestinians. In 2005, Israel unilaterally ended military occupation of Gaza, although it maintained control of its borders and skies. Jewish settlers in Gaza were also removed by Israeli authorities. Gazans promptly elected Hamas as their government, and it has remained such ever since.

In spite of Hamas' clear refusal to acknowledge Israel's right even to exist and to disavow terrorism, foreign aid to the Palestinians since the 1990s from the United States and other Western countries, often supplemented and brokered by Qatar and other wealthy Gulf Arab states, has been staggering. The United States alone, during times of good behavior by Hamas, has sent a total of more than $5 billion to the Palestinians since the mid-'90s, and has been particularly generous during the Biden administration. Since early 2021, the United States has sent more than $500 million in taxpayer dollars to the Palestinians. Given the continued squalor of the Gaza Strip, coupled with the stunning array of weaponry, including countless thousands of modern rockets deployed against Israel since October 7, it is not hard to figure out how most of this "humanitarian aid" got spent.

AP Images

Endless rage: Palestinian demonstrators outside the Israeli Consulate General in New York City. As the sign bearer in the foreground indicates, many Palestinians and Arab sympathizers favor terrorist tactics such as the events of October 7.

During the first two decades of this century, many in Israel and the West appear to have operated on the hope that, if they simply ignored Gaza and Hamas, and continued to send money to the Palestinians, the radicalism would subside. On October 7, the entire world learned the error of that supposition. The October 7 attack was surpassed in lethality among acts of terrorism only by 9/11, and in sheer animalistic barbarity by no event in modern history. Proportionally, 10/7 was far worse than 9/11, since the population of Israel is less than 10 million, or about one 30th that of the United States in 2001.

Yet despite the savagery on display against women, children, the elderly, foreigners, and even some Israeli Palestinians who happened to be in the area of the invasion on October 7, large numbers of woke minions — on U.S. campuses from Harvard to Berkeley, in the halls of Congress, and on the streets of our major cities — have turned out to demonstrate their full support for both Palestinians and Hamas. With the moral astigmatism characteristic of the Left, Hamas terrorists are portrayed as victims of a cruel and oppressive Israeli regime, and their mass murder of unarmed innocents on a religious holiday as just reprisal for past grievances.

Islamic Nazis, Communists

That such acts of inhuman butchery are being praised by a wide swath of the American and international Left is yet more testimony, if such is needed, of the callous cruelty inherent in radical leftism. And adding to the monstrous irony is the fact that many of the same radical-Left types who pretend to be the enemies of latter-day fascists and Nazis are ap-

AP Images

Playing both sides: President Biden is now claiming to support Israel and disavow Hamas, but he continues to chide Israel about abiding by the "rules of war," and his administration has sent more than $500 million to the Palestinians since 2021.

plauding attacks on Jews with rhetoric similar to that of Hitler and his lunatic devotees. To the Nazis — the real Nazis — everything bad could be laid at the feet of the wicked international Jew, that superman Shylock whose machinations were allegedly responsible for Germany's pain, and who was determined to rule the world by controlling all the wealth. Faced with such a scourge, the Nazis believed, only a "Final Solution" would solve the problem. And in similar fashion, large numbers of non-Jewish people in the Middle East today believe that all of their problems stem from Israel, and that the only possible solution is the eradication of the Jews and the destruction of the State of Israel. As Jamal Abu Samhadana, sometime terrorist and also former chief of Palestinian Security Services, once told *The Sunday Telegraph*, "We have only one enemy. They are Jews. We have no other enemy." Less well-known outside the Middle East is how influential Nazism is among the various anti-Israel factions there. For example, Sami al-Jundi, one of the early leaders of the monstrous Ba'ath Party in Syria (the same that furnishes the power base for the Assad family), wrote that "we were racialists, admiring Nazism, reading its books and the source of its thought.... We were the first to think of translating *Mein Kampf* [into Arabic]."

According to historian Jeffrey Herf, "To be sure, the translations of Hitler's *Mein Kampf* and *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion* into Arabic were important sources of the diffusion of Nazi ideology and anti-Semitic conspiracy thinking to Arab and Muslim intellectuals."

Germany was regarded with more sympathy than other European states by many Arabs because it had not colonized any part of the Middle East. Hitler's emphasis on Germanic ethnic unity and purity resonated with divided Arabs. And of course, the Nazis and the Arabs professed a common enemy.

In addition, a major patron of Islamic terrorism throughout the Cold War was the Soviet Union. From the beginning, Russia's Bolsheviks allied themselves with jihadists, and portrayed communism as a sort of secular jihad to earn the sympathy of the many Muslims living in Soviet territory, and to export the gospel of Marx and Lenin to the Middle East. Thus the pedigree of radical Islamic terrorism is deeply intertwined with both Nazism and communism, the two great genocidal ideologies of the 20th century. But all of these inconvenient facts are lost on America's radical Left.

Rational Americans are rightly worried about America's involvement in the Gaza War, and whether it will expand into something bigger. Unfortunately, with at least 30 Americans now confirmed dead, and an indeterminate number held hostage by the terrorists, America is already involved whether it wishes to be or not. It is entirely possible that U.S. Special Forces may be called upon for hostage-extraction operations. Whether this will ultimately turn into a larger conflict involving Iran and other countries is yet to be seen. But given Iran's threats, and its near-nuclear capability that grows day by day, some type of preemptive or retaliatory action against Iran by the United States or Israel does not seem unlikely.

A bigger problem, at least for America's self-interest, involves the ongoing invasion of the U.S. homeland being enabled by, of all things, our own Department of Homeland Security. During the Biden presidency, more than seven million invaders — more than the population of the state of Tennessee or Wisconsin — have been permitted to enter the United States across a completely open southern border. Significant numbers of these new invaders (they are not "immigrants," after all) are from the Middle East, and more than 100 (that we know of) were on terror watchlists. And on top of that, Palestinian sympathizers in Congress are now proposing that we bring in many of the anticipated one million refugees from Gaza on humanitarian grounds.

Such conditions virtually guarantee a return of major terrorist attacks to U.S. soil before too long, events that will — should they occur — become a pretext for yet more government powers of surveillance and arbitrary detainment, as 9/11 was a generation ago. For those eager to accelerate the destruction of traditional American limited government, and to create a totalitarian police state in Washington, events such as the October 7 attack and its potential spillover into the United States, both in the form of more foreign war and more domestic terrorism, are a veritable bonanza of opportunity. ■

THE "STUPID PARTY" LIVES UP TO ITS NAME YET AGAIN

The House speaker race following the ousting of Kevin McCarthy has highlighted the war within the GOP and distracted Americans from an existential threat to the country.

AP Images

Finished: Kevin McCarthy's term as House speaker lasted only nine months. Republicans dropped him because they felt he broke his promises and made backroom deals with President Biden and House Democrats.

by R. Cort Kirkwood

Set aside the obvious observation that the Republicans who voted to make Kevin McCarthy of California the speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives in January got exactly what they deserved: a speaker for the Deep State uniparty that wants to keep Americans embroiled in foreign wars and the national debt climbing to the outer reaches of the stratosphere.

R. Cort Kirkwood is a longtime contributor to The New American. *He was a newspaperman for more than 25 years.*

The larger lesson in the election and then removal of McCarthy as one of the nation's two top Republican leaders is far more important. The GOP is called the Stupid Party for a reason. It never misses a chance to blow the game when all the money is on the line — to fumble at the one-yard line in the fourth quarter, to strike out with three men on base in the ninth inning, to whiff a winning tap-in putt on the 18th hole in the final round. If the failure of the GOP since Donald Trump's stunning victory in 2016 could be summed up in two words, those words would be "Kevin" and "McCarthy."

At the time of this writing, the House has not replaced him. But McCarthy's rise and fall invite a few observations. Not least, his election and removal perfectly encapsulate what's wrong with the GOP, by showing that it doesn't understand the most significant peril the country has ever faced: a *Camp of the Saints*-style illegal-alien invasion at the southwest border that won't spell doom just for the party, but also for the country.

Why They Dumped Him

McCarthy landed his post after 15 ballots, which means he clearly wasn't the strongest candidate. McCarthy is a "conservative" Republican from central casting. As candidates, M. Stanton Evans used to say, such conservatives denounce Capitol Hill as a filthy wallow of big-spending politicians. Once elected, they jump in and splash around with the oinkers like it's a hot tub. Thus, he secured his victory only after submitting to myriad demands from conservatives nervous about the obvious. Most importantly, he agreed that one member could motion to elect a new speaker, a return to the method of electing a new speaker until Democrat Nancy Pelosi, McCarthy's predecessor, deep-sixed the practice.

But McCarthy also agreed on the following, as Fox News reported:

> He agreed to votes on term limits and the adoption of a budget resolution that balances the budget in 10 years, and a cap on fiscal year 2024 spending at FY 2022 levels.
>
> McCarthy agreed to reject any negotiations on spending with the Senate until the Senate passes its own spending bills. He agreed not to increase the debt limit without spending cuts or other fiscal reforms,

to set up a committee to examine the weaponization of government against U.S. citizens, and to ensure no bills are brought up on the floor until at least 72 hours passed.

Yet note, as per usual, the GOP focused on policy wonkery and side issues that did not address an illegal-alien invasion at the southern border that the Biden administration is aiding and abetting. The goal: import new Democratic voters who will cement party power permanently.

Representative Mary Miller (R-Ill.) thought the problem was the national debt. "We are negotiating a historic conservative victory to finally stop reckless SPENDING and DEBT from crushing our children & grandchildren," she tweeted. "We will ensure a Republican House cannot do what Senate Rs did when they passed the disastrous $1.7 TRILLION omnibus! We must STOP BIDEN!"

Another newly elected congressman, Representative Ralph Norman (R-S.C.), tweeted much the same thing:

> From the beginning, I've been clear that restoring fiscal sanity to Congress is my top priority. It's crucial for the next Republican Speaker to leverage every tool at his disposal to cut spending, balance the budget, and start paying down our massive levels of debt.
>
> The status quo is failing our nation. We cannot continue the reckless spending and borrowing on the backs of our children. That's why I am pleased to have reached an agreement with Rep. McCarthy on concrete steps he will take to fix our budgeting and appropriations processes, as well as much needed rules changes in the House.
>
> While this has not been an easy process, I'm confident this agreement will place us on an excellent trajectory, and I look forward to working with Speaker-designate McCarthy as we move forward.

Certainly, controlling the debt and forcing Congress and the Senate to pass separate appropriations bills are monumentally important matters. But they are not *existentially* important matters — at least not to the same degree as a full-scale invasion of millions of penniless Third World "migrants" who carry disease and just might be terrorists or foreign soldiers.

But, as Forrest Gump said, "stupid is as stupid does," and so the reason to remove McCarthy was nearly identical to the reason Republicans supported him: Promises, promises.

Instead of forcing the House to vote on the 12 appropriations bills, McCarthy rammed through yet another unconstitutional continuing resolution.

That is, of course, unacceptable. Congress hasn't passed a real budget in almost 30 years, and routinely violates the Budget Act of 1974, which requires votes on the 12 appropriations bills that fund the government.

"We were able to get him a very conservative agenda moving forward," including a solid border-security bill, Representative Matt Rosendale (R-Mont.) told *The New American's* Paul Dragu.

But McCarthy failed when it came to the budget. Though Republicans passed measures to cut spending, capped the debt ceiling increase at $1.5 trillion, and froze 2024 fiscal spending at 2022 levels, "before the ink was dry" McCarthy "went to the president to negotiate a deal outside of the [GOP] conference" that would lift the national debt by $4 trillion.

Continued Rosendale, "At that point, we knew that we were going to be having problems with the uniparty and the D.C. cartel again. It was business as usual."

Though Republicans did pass three appropriations bills, a deadline to keep the government funded approached, and so McCarthy rounded up enough Democratic votes to pass the continuing resolution that sealed his fate. Rosendale continued: "And at that point, we had pretty well made our minds up that he needed to be removed.… By that evening, we heard that … he had also negotiated a side deal with Joe Biden to provide additional funding for Ukraine."

In other words, McCarthy was the duplicitous Deep State operative that any intelligent observer always knew he was,

AP Images

Invasion: While House Republicans want to impeach President Biden for "corruption" related to his shady business dealings, the real issue is the illegal-alien invasion at America's southern border.

AP Images

Man of the hour: Representative Matt Gaetz (R-Fla.) is largely responsible for McCarthy's ouster as speaker. For this, he is praised by many conservatives while hated by neocons and liberals.

which, again, raises the obvious question of why any intelligent Republican believed his promises.

The spigot sending money to Ukraine, which McCarthy vowed to close, was his final undoing. Matt Gaetz of Florida introduced a motion to remove him, and down he went.

But, again, consider that the GOP's main concern is the debt, not the invasion at the border.

"With the Democrats driving the fiscal bus off the cliff at 100 miles an hour, we cannot simply be content to be the party that slows it down to 95, just so we can sit in the front seat and wear the captain's hat," Representative Bob Good (R-Va.) said. "Our current debt and our spending trajectory is unsustainable. We need a speaker, ideally somebody who wants to be speaker and hasn't pursued that at all costs for his entire adult life, who will meet the moment and do everything possible to fight for the country," Good continued.

Another concern, unbelievable as it is, came from Representative Nancy Mace (R-S.C.). McCarthy's big betrayal wasn't even the debt, or sending more taxpayer funds down the drain to Ukraine. Rather, he "betrayed" her over a "rape kit bill." You read that right:

> I made deals with Kevin McCarthy, with the speaker, that he has not kept to help women in this country. And we have done nothing for them. Or a survivor of rape, and I worked all year on a rape kit bill that hasn't seen the time of day, I cannot tell you how frustrating it is as a woman in this Congress, in this Capitol, to have that happen.

Perhaps Mace should be more concerned about the coming rape wave thanks to Joe Biden's illegal-alien invasion.

Reaction

More evidence that the Official GOP is likely beyond hope because too many of its members work in the Deep State's Uniparty Control Tower came from former House Speaker Newt Gingrich. He was the victim of a party rebellion after Republicans lost five seats in the 1998 elections.

Gingrich, who rose to power in the late 1980s and became speaker by targeting Democratic Speaker Jim Wright and his corruption, thinks Gaetz must be expelled because he had the temerity to challenge the establishment. Worse still, he was cheeky enough to defeat it.

"Gaetz obviously hates House Speaker Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.) — and that's fine," Gingrich wrote for *The Washington Post*:

> If Gaetz were simply a loudmouthed junior member who attacked McCarthy every day, that would be fine, too. He would just be isolated with a small group of lawmakers who can't figure out how to get things done. They'd huddle together seeking warmth and reassurance from their fellow incompetents.
>
> But Gaetz has gone beyond regular drama. He is destroying the House GOP's ability to govern and draw a sharp contrast with the policy disasters of the Biden administration.

Another reason to expel Gaetz, Gingrich wrote, is that he violated House rules on removing a speaker, the agreement McCarthy made regardless. That agreement "doesn't supersede House rules," he wrote.

Then again, Gingrich comes by his hatred of GOP rebels honestly. They tossed him, again, after the GOP lost seats in the 1998 midterm elections — and also after the House reprimanded him for an ethics violation.

He quit the speakership the day after the election, then resigned his House seat. "I'm not willing to preside over people who are cannibals," Gingrich said.

Invasion at the Border? No Worries

If Gingrich and pro-McCarthy Republicans were truly worried about the fate of the country, they would focus on the invasion at the border. They can stop the rising debt and money for Ukraine anytime they want. Congress is in charge of appropriations. After more than two full years of that invasion, the GOP still doesn't get it. Consider what Biden has done:

- created a smartphone app to legalize illegals before they leave home to invade;
- "paroled" more than 300,000 Cubans, Haitians, Nicaraguans, and Venezuelans annually;
- sent illegals with tuberculosis to 44 states;

• flown more than 200,000 illegals into the country; and

• released 100,000 illegals to roam free in September alone.

Those data surfaced before a shocking report from Representative Jim Jordan's (R-Ohio) House Judiciary Committee, which pried the following information out of the administration:

• Of the more than 5 million illegal alien encounters from January 20, 2021, through March 31, 2023, at least 2,464,424 illegal aliens had no confirmed departure from the United States as of March 31, 2023.

• Of the illegal aliens encountered in those 26 months, DHS released at least 2,148,738 illegal aliens into the United States.

• Between January 20, 2021, and March 31, 2023, the Biden Administration has removed from the United States only 5,993 illegal aliens who were encountered at the southwest border and who were placed in removal proceedings before an immigration judge during that time. In other words, of the at least 2.1 million aliens released into the United States since January 20, 2021, the Biden Administration has failed to remove, through immigration court removal proceedings, roughly 99.7 percent of those illegal aliens.

• The Biden Administration's total removals of illegal aliens encountered during that same period were just 4 percent of the number of aliens with no confirmed departure from the United States as of March 31, 2023.

• These data contradict Secretary [Alejandro] Mayorkas's statements that the southwest border is closed and that illegal aliens are "quickly" removed. Instead, with more than 99 percent of illegal aliens staying inside the United States after being released by the Biden Administration, there is virtually no enforcement of our immigration laws.

• Of the illegal aliens who Secretary Mayorkas claims are asylum seekers and who were released into the United States from January 20, 2021, through March 31, 2023, only six percent were screened for a fear of persecution.

• Of the illegal aliens who were found to have a credible fear of persecution and whose asylum claims were adjudicated on the merits, DHS had removed only 874 of those aliens as of March 2023.

• The Biden Administration has released into the country at least an additional 205,473 aliens through its illegal categorical parole programs.

AP Images

MAGA Speaker? Representative Jim Jordan (R-Ohio) might very well be the next speaker of the House. Jordan is a Trump supporter with a fairly solid voting record.

All these facts and figures invite the observation that McCarthy, along with most other Republicans, simply doesn't understand what's important. Bad as a debt running to $40 trillion is, it won't matter if *we don't have a nation with borders*.

While the main complaint about McCarthy involved his mishandling of the appropriations bills, the continuing-resolution bait-and-switch, and the secret deal with Biden on money for Ukraine, not a single soul has mentioned the obvious. Though McCarthy opened an impeachment inquiry of Biden, *he did not do so on the border invasion that Biden is openly and illegally aiding and abetting, violating his oath of office*. Instead, he stupidly opened the probe on the relatively minor crime of "corruption." Biden not only profited from son Hunter's planetary business dealings, but also forced Ukraine to fire a prosecutor who was investigating a company, Burisma Holdings, that enriched Hunter. As vice president in 2016, Biden Sr. threatened to withhold $1 billion in U.S. loan guarantees if Ukraine didn't fire the prosecutor, a clear case of extortion. And, yes, an FBI confidential-source report says the chieftain of Burisma bribed the Bidens to do so. Indeed, we now know that the Biden Crime Family's influence-peddling operation spread its tentacles over 23 countries, as the House Ways and Means Committee reported in early October.

That's terrible, of course. But impeaching him for it is like prosecuting Chicago Outfit chieftain Al Capone for income-tax evasion instead of racketeering or murder, most notably the St. Valentine's Day Massacre on February 14, 1929. Though Biden is orchestrating an invasion of his own country, McCarthy and his impeachers want to discuss Biden, his son, and their admittedly illicit, if not criminal, activi-

ties. One presents an existential threat to the nation; the other does not. As well, the legality of impeaching Biden for corruption as vice president is uncertain.

Likewise, Republicans didn't oust McCarthy because he blew the impeachment and opened an inquiry on the wrong matter, but instead because he broke promises on matters whose importance pales next to what Biden has done to his country with the mass importation of Third World "migrants."

Jim Jordan?

At the time of this writing, it looks as though Republicans might replace McCarthy with Jim Jordan, a strong immigration patriot. Jordan boasts an "A," or 90-percent, rating from the immigration watchdog Numbers USA for the current Congress. His career rating is an A-minus, or 88 percent.

As issues in general go, on *The New American's* latest Freedom Index, Jordan rated an 80 percent. House Majority Leader Steve Scalise, Jordan's main contender before he dropped out of the race, pegged a weak 67. McCarthy notched just 60 percent, which means the party had nowhere to go but up.

And Jordan's top priority, he has said, is stopping Biden's illegal catch-and-release of "migrants."

"The very first thing I would focus on is one sentence: no money can be used to process or release into this country any new migrants," he told Fox News. And unlike Scalise, Jordan voted against sending $300 million for the war in Ukraine because, as he said, "we don't even know what the goal is. No one can tell me what the objective is."

Then again, because Hamas attacked Israel and "our most reliable ally in the Middle East" is once again at war, Jordan offered this on Fox News' *Sunday Morning Futures*: "I wanna give [Israel] what they need to win.… I want to do what it takes to win this.… We need to make sure they have what they need to win."

"What they need to win," of course, will come from American taxpayers, and might just include American blood as well as American treasure.

Better that Jordan and the GOP spend their time and money stopping the invasion at the border.

Jordan fell 22 votes short on the second ballot of the required 217 votes to take the gavel because GOP moderates voted against him. Jordan's 199 votes on the second ballot was one less than his first-ballot tally. And in yet another sign that the GOP might well be hopeless, Oklahoma's Tom Cole, who nominated Jordan, continued with the nonsense that the debt was the important issue facing the country. In all likelihood, a new speaker will have been elected before this magazine lands in mailboxes.

The upshot of the speaker fight is this: While the president of the United States wages demographic war against old-stock Americans in general and the GOP in particular with an invasion at the nation's southwest border, party renegades think something else is more important. Thus, they tried to block the one man who might try to stop the invasion.

Whether they were successful or not, the GOP yet again has lived up to its name: The Stupid Party. ■

POPE FRANCIS' REVOLUTION
THE SYNOD ON SYNODALITY

Pope Francis' four-year-long synod is sending shockwaves throughout the Catholic world as its radical agenda on moral issues and Church governance becomes known.

Synodal revolution: In addition to alarming positions on homosexuality, marriage, feminism, divorce, migration, and enviro-Marxism, Pope Francis' Synodal Way points toward a new structure of governance.

AP Images

by William F. Jasper

Polygamy? Blessing homosexual unions? "Radical inclusion" of LGBT people? Holy Communion for those living in adulterous relationships? Ordination of women? Is the Roman Catholic Church really about to flip on these and related issues? Are Pope Francis and his "Synod on Synodality" bent (many faithful Catholics say "hell-bent") on thoroughly overturning two millennia of the Catholic Church's teaching on moral doctrine? Indeed, virtually everything associated with the synod — the delegates appointed to it, the topics under discussion, and the revolutionary context of Francis' pontificate — point to an end goal of bringing about a subversive and seismic upheaval in fundamental Catholic beliefs.

While the hot-button moral issues have taken center stage, there are other far-reaching concerns as well. Pope Francis, the "Climate Change Pope," has made sure that this pet obsession of his is also prominently injected into the synodal proceedings (along with the directly related United Nations 2030 Agenda on Sustainability), which are conspicuously timed to gin up support for the UN's COP28 Climate Summit to be held in Dubai in November and December. Still another contentious issue is the matter of migration, particularly the mass migration of Muslims into Europe and North America. Pope Francis has staked out a very extreme position on this topic, repeatedly calling for what amounts to the complete abandonment of borders, national sovereignty, and orderly immigration.

However, what may prove to be far

William F. Jasper is a senior editor of The New American.

AP Images

"Toxic nightmare": The late Cardinal George Pell, a former top-level Vatican official, warned before his death in 2022 that the Synod on Synodality is a "toxic nightmare," a "disaster," and a "catastrophe" for the faith.

more problematic and destructive in the long run than the adoption of heretical or heterodox positions on any of these controversial issues is the novel "synodal process" that is being established. The synod documents are replete with references to "the synodal church," reinforcing the public statements of many of its radical participants that the Catholic Church will tailor doctrine according to parish polling and diocesan plebiscite rather than biblical direction and apostolic tradition. The obvious end product would be a political-ideological "Church of Democracy," with ever-changing doctrine to agree with the hostile demands of the anti-Christian world powers.

The Synod on Synodality (officially known as the 16th Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops) is a multi-year affair that began with a preparatory process in September 2021 and will conclude in October 2024. The first formal session of the synod began this year in Rome on October 4 and concluded on October 29.

Shepherds Warn of "Toxic," "Hostile," "Suicidal" Synod

In the lead-up to this year's opening session, the Synod on Synodality came under fire from important Catholic clergy, as well as prominent lay Catholic theologians, Catholic thought leaders, and Catholic organizations.

Shortly before his death last January, Australian Cardinal George Pell, the former prefect of the Vatican's Secretariat for the Economy, wrote a blistering piece for the British newspaper *The Spectator* in which he described Francis' pontificate as "a disaster in many or most respects; a catastrophe," and called the synod "a toxic nightmare." He referred to it as "this potpourri, this outpouring of New Age goodwill."

"It is not a summary of Catholic faith or New Testament teaching," Pell warned. "It is incomplete, hostile in significant ways to the apostolic tradition and nowhere acknowledges the New Testament as the Word of God, normative for all teaching on faith and morals. The Old Testament is ignored, patriarchy rejected and the Mosaic Law, including the Ten Commandments, is not acknowledged."

The Australian prelate noted that in Germany, where a majority of the German bishops have gone flagrantly heretical, especially on sexual matters, "some faithful German Catholics are already talking, not of the synodal way, but the suicidal way." The German synodal Cardinal Gerhard Ludwig Müller has similarly described the synod as "a hostile takeover of the Church" that must be resisted. Cardinal Müller, who is the former prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (CDF, now renamed the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith, DDF), has become one of the most outspoken critics of the synod and its revolutionized "synodal process."

Additional cardinals and bishops who have challenged the dangerous path of Pope Francis' "Synodal Way" include Cardinals Joseph Zen of Hong Kong, Robert Sarah of Guinea, Raymond Burke of the United States, Dominik Duka of Prague, Kurt Koch of Switzerland, and Juan Sandoval Íñiguez of Mexico, and Bishops Héctor Aguer of Buenos Aires, Robert Mutsaerts of the Netherlands, Athanasius Schneider of Kazakhstan, Carlo Maria Viganò (former apostolic nuncio), and Joseph Strickland of Tyler, Texas.

Stacking the Synod Deck

The alarming proceedings of the Synod on Synodality might come as a shock to many Catholics and non-Catholics alike, but there really is no excuse for surprise. Voices of Catholic orthodoxy have been warning for years that we should expect nothing less than all-out revolution from the misbegotten enterprise. The clues were anything but subtle. Pope Francis' latest synod follows the pattern of deception, duplicity, and manipulation that typified his earlier gatherings. In an article titled "How the Family Synods Prepared the Ground for the Synod on Synodality" for the *National Catholic Register*, veteran Vatican correspondent and author Edward Pentin recounts the deceitful machinations that characterized the 2014 and 2015 Extraordinary and Ordinary Synods on the Family. Those intrigues were more fully detailed in Pentin's 2015 book *The Rigging of a Vatican Synod? An Investigation into Alleged Manipulation at the Extraordinary Synod on the Family*.

That the Synod on Synodality would clearly be following the same devious path as the earlier Francis synods was clear from the very start due to two key elements: personnel and process. First, regarding personnel, the selection of voting participants was heavily tilted in the "progressive" direction. The more notorious examples, ranging from heterodox to heretical, among the synod delegates are:

Father James Martin, S.J. — Arguably the most infamous promoter of same-sex civil unions and all things pro-LGBT, Fr. Martin is a writer and editor-at-large for

Orbon Alija/Getty Images Plus

Blessing sin? One of the most contentious issues confronting the synod is the obstinate advocacy by many key participants for the blessing of homosexual civil unions. But Cardinal Raymond Burke responds that "It's not possible to bless these unions in any way."

the leftist Jesuit magazine *America*. He has been given additional status by Pope Francis, who appointed him a member of the Vatican Dicastery for Communications.

Cardinal Jean-Claude Hollerich, S.J. — Relator general of the synod and a prominent pro-LGBT cardinal. Pope Francis has appointed him as a member of his Council of Cardinals.

Cardinal Blase Cupich — The Chicago archbishop whom John-Henry Westen of LifeSiteNews has placed in the Number 1 spot on his list of "America's top 10 homosexuality-promoting Catholic bishops."

Cardinal Wilton Gregory — Archbishop of Washington, D.C., raised to the cardinalate by Francis in 2020, is Number 2 on the same list of "America's top 10 homosexuality-promoting Catholic bishops."

Cardinal Joseph Tobin — Archbishop of Newark, New Jersey, is Number 3 on the list of "America's top 10 homosexuality-promoting Catholic bishops."

Cardinal Robert McElroy — Notorious pro-LGBT Bishop of San Diego. Pope Francis elevated him to the cardinalate in 2022 despite his promotion of heretical beliefs. He's Number 6 on the list of "America's top 10 homosexuality-promoting Catholic bishops."

There are many more "synodalists" of similar ilk among the 370 voting participants in this ongoing "toxic nightmare" (in the words of Cardinal Pell). Also, for the first time in the history of the Catholic Church, lay men and women and women religious are participating in this "Synod of Bishops" as voting members. As Cardinal Raymond Burke and other cardinals, bishops, and theologians have pointed out, a synod of bishops is supposed to be just that: a gathering of successors of the apostles, who have been trained and ordained to carry out their apostolic duties. "If the laity participate in it with the right to vote," noted Cardinal Müller, "then it is no longer a synod of bishops or an ecclesiastical conference [and] does not have the apostolic teaching authority of the episcopal college." The inclusion of 70 voting non-bishops — all personally selected by Pope Francis — is a guarantee that the synodal process will be tilted leftward.

The Synod on Synodality's obsession with LGBT issues was highlighted by the pope's scandalous choice of the radically pro-homosexual British theologian Fr. Timothy Radcliffe to lead the three-day retreat that kicked off the synod session in Rome. Then there are the 30 non-voting "experts," "facilitators," and "sherpas" who will be guiding the synodal process, collecting "input." And writing up the synod's final report are well-known ultra-heterodox dissenters from the Christian faith. Among them is Pope Francis' adoring biographer, Austen Ivereigh, a prolific writer and ardent propagandist for heterodox and heretical causes. Critics of the synod's "process" or "methodology" point out that the entire affair, like the Amazon Synod and the Synods on the Family and Youth, is highly controlled, scripted, and manipulated to achieve a preordained outcome, an outcome that is in complete contradiction to biblical and apostolic tradition, as well as Catholic doctrine.

The new "synodal process" is indeed a revolution, a "hostile takeover," camouflaged under honeyed words claiming it is a "reform" effort to build a "listening Church," a "welcoming Church," a Church of "inclusivity," a Church of "accompaniment." The synodal process is chock full of gag-worthy word salads of pop-psychology clichés about "dialogue," "discerning," "mercy," "journeying together," and "radical inclusion" of the "marginalized," "excluded," and "oppressed." Every heterodox or heretical proposition is credited to the "movement of the Holy Spirit" or inspiration from "the God of Surprises" (a trademark expression of Pope Francis).

However, contrary to all the talk about "listening," "welcoming," "inclusion," and "accompaniment," Pope Francis and the orchestrators of the synod are unambiguously hostile toward the Catholic faithful who adhere to the eternal verities, unchangeable doctrines, and ancient liturgies of the Church. Pope Francis harbors a particular animosity toward Catholics devoted to the traditional Latin Mass, calling them "rigid," "ideological," "sick," and "dangerous." He and his like-minded ecclesiastical allies seem to share the moonbat lunacy of President Joe Biden (a pro-abortion, pro-LGBT "pious Catholic"), who thinks Catholics who attend the Latin Mass are dangerous extremists that must be followed and monitored, and their churches infiltrated. Despite all the synod's fuzzy, feel-good buzzwords and spin, the Synodal Way is indeed shaping up to be, in the words of the late Cardinal Pell, "a catastrophe." ■

EXPRESSIONS OF ALARM BY ORTHODOX PRELATES

We are told that the Church which we profess, in communion with our ancestors in the faith from the time of the Apostles, to be One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic is now to be defined by synodality, a term which has no history in the doctrine of the Church and for which there is no reasonable definition. Synodality and its adjective, synodal, have become slogans behind which a revolution is at work to change radically the Church's self-understanding, in accord with a contemporary ideology which denies much of what the Church has always taught and practiced. It is not a purely theoretical matter, for the ideology has already, for some years, been put into practice in the Church in Germany, spreading widely confusion and error and their fruit, division — indeed schism — to the grave harm of many souls.
— Cardinal Raymond Burke, foreword to *The Synodal Process Is a Pandora's Box*

You cannot bless a relationship which, in itself, is involved with intrinsically evil acts, and therefore, it's not possible to bless these unions in any way. Yes, we are judges. We have to judge between what is right and what is wrong, and we know on the authority of divine revelation that genital acts between people of the same sex are intrinsically evil.
— Cardinal Raymond Burke, on EWTN's *The World Over*

This [synodal agenda] is a system of self-revelation. This occupation of the Catholic Church is a hostile takeover of the Church of Jesus Christ.... It has nothing to do with Jesus Christ ... and [in this agenda] they think that doctrine is only like a program of a political party, who can change it according to their votes…. If they succeed, it will be the end of the Catholic Church. And we must resist it like the old heretics of the Arianism.
— Cardinal Gerhard Müller on EWTN's *The World Over*, October 6, 2022

Gerhard Müller

The false prophets who present themselves as progressives have announced that they will turn the Catholic Church into an aid organization for Agenda 2030…. Apparently there are even bishops who no longer believe in God as the origin and end of man and savior of the world, but who, in a pan-natural or pantheistic way, they consider the supposed mother earth to be the beginning of existence and climate neutrality the goal of planet earth.
— Cardinal Gerhard Müller, interview with InfoVaticana, September 12, 2023

The mantra of the process is: listening. To whom? To everybody. The working document contains quite a few quotes…. The contours of the synodal process are becoming increasingly clear. It offers one megaphone for non-church views…. One thing is clear to me. God is out of the picture in this disgraced synodal process. The Holy Spirit has absolutely nothing to do with it. You keep people away from salvation. I'm now dropped out of the synodal process.
— Bishop Robert Mutsaerts of the Netherlands, in his blog of November 4, 2022

The Synod on Synodality is leading souls from the truth of Christ and His Church. Worryingly, there are some signs of Rome's benevolence towards the U.N.'s Agenda 2030. On the contrary, the Church should prophetically announce the opposition of this programme to Christian anthropology and the natural order. I dwell on this issue, which is of the utmost importance. The 2030 Agenda is a globalist project of the United Nations and associated agencies, which pressures states to adopt abortion policies and "comprehensive sex education."... The progressivism of the present pontificate reappears in the midst of the ruins it has produced.... It is appropriate to recall the discernment that Paul VI unexpectedly reached in the midst of the chaos of the 1970s: "Through some crack the smoke of Satan has seeped into the Church of today."
— Archbishop Emeritus Héctor Aguer of Buenos Aires, Argentina, September 21, 2023

The synodal process is being manipulated in the hands of high-ranking Vatican officials to push their ideological agenda. Many bishops are concerned that there is a pre-established agenda in Rome. This process is a tool to coverup a pre-established agenda and we have to be very concerned.
— Bishop Athanasius Schneider of Astana, Kazakhstan, on EWTN's *The World Over* October 22, 2022

The issue that many people are propagating today is that men should marry men, that women should marry women and are asking the Church to validate this. Dear brothers and sisters, the position of the Catholic Church and your pastors (bishops) is that this is a forbidden zone.
— Bishop Hieronymus Joya of Kenya, homily of October 6, 2023

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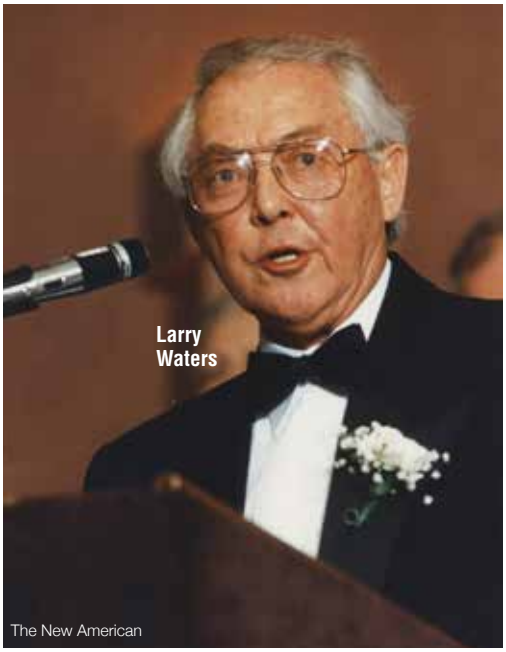
Farewell to a Cherished Patriot: Larry O. Waters

by Rebecca Terrell

Some may think it coincidence that God chose Columbus Day, October 12, on which to call Larry Orman Waters to his eternal reward. However, those who knew Larry would likely dub it characteristic serendipity that Providence would pick a date of such significance in American history. Larry Waters was, after all, one of his beloved country's most dedicated sons.

Patriotism was in his blood. Family records reveal him to descend from Colonel William Waters, who became reputedly the first elected sheriff in America, in Northampton County, Colonial Virginia, in 1651. His third great-grandfather, William Aris Waters, served as a militia captain for his district in Tattnall County, Georgia, in the mid-1830s. And the Florida State Genealogical Society honors his great-great-grandfather, Emanuel Waters, as one of the state's pioneers. Emanuel served in Florida's 8th Regiment during the American Civil War and was injured in the 1864 Battle of the Wilderness. He spent the remainder of the conflict as a prisoner.


Larry Waters
The New American

Larry's forefathers passed their flame of patriotism down through the generations until it burst forth on a brisk day in Florida near the end of January 1933. Christopher Orman and Marion Martis (Knight) Waters welcomed their son into the world in the midst of the Great Depression, when President Herbert Hoover was preparing to vacate the White House and hand the reins to Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

At the age of six, Larry witnessed the onset of the sovereignty-eroding Second World War, which would last until he was 12, when internationalists used the contrived conflict as an excuse to plant the seed of world government with the creation of the United Nations in 1945.

At 18, Larry entered Harding University in Searcy, Arkansas, while the Korean War raged overseas and Wisconsin Republican Senator Joseph McCarthy struggled on Capitol Hill to expose communists entrenched within our national government and institutions. By the time Larry graduated in 1957 with a degree in business administration, trouble was already brewing in Vietnam, and the USSR was preparing to launch Sputnik, scoring the first major victory in the Cold War's space race.

As he settled after college in Plano, Texas, where he started a successful printing business, Larry must have noticed how these events, coupled with disastrous U.S. national policies, were slowly whittling away at American independence and embroiling his homeland in perilous foreign entanglements.

A Life Dedicated to JBS

Larry Waters looked for a solution, and discovered it in The John Birch Society, established in 1958 to expose the communist conspiracy threatening the United States. Inspired by founder Robert Welch's clarion call for more "pullers at the oars," Larry joined the JBS in its third year, when major media were waging a bloodthirsty smear campaign against the patriotic, educational organization.

Larry plunged into action, playing a pivotal role in the growth of the Society during the 1960s. He was first a chapter leader, then a section leader in the Dallas area, and within a few years found himself volunteering as a field coordinator in north Texas.

He also helped establish JBS's Dallas regional office and its Amer-

Rebecca Terrell is a senior editor of The New American.

ican Opinion Bookstore, which housed a room used for meetings, programs, and presentations. Veterans of the era will remember that JBS member Julie Hays helped Larry run the office. And keeping it in the family, Larry's sister, Barbara, married Rex Westerfield, who served as JBS public relations director in the 1960s.

In January 1967, Larry joined the JBS staff as a full-time coordinator, selling his printing business so he could dedicate all his time, energy, and resources to the cause. The Society soon rewarded his talents with promotion to a regional director position, in which he covered the states of Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi.

The New American

According to his good friend Bill Cherry, a former JBS national development officer, Larry is considered the "founding father" of the organization's "B&P" (business and professional) chapters across the country. During the 1970s he also pioneered the first JBS youth camp in the southwest, and served as its director for many years.

Birchers who attended that annual week-long event as speakers, counselors, and campers remember Larry's quick smile and affinity for dad jokes. "Fools rush in … and get the best seats," he might quip. The daily camp newspaper took advantage of his sense of humor to throw barbs at every opportunity, with headlines such as "Investigation Shows Waters Guilty of Gross Dereliction of Duty" and "Waters Sabotaging Camp: Crisis Looms."

No one enjoyed the fun more than he, but Larry also took care of business. "I served as camp doctor 20 years, and he was my assistant one year when a camper lacerated his forehead and I sutured him," recalls physician and fellow Bircher Mike Ritze, who would later serve for 10 years in the Oklahoma House of Representatives. It was Larry who had enrolled Ritze and his wife in JBS membership in 1981.

Charlene Larsen Fanning, who at the time owned the camp host facility, the Rockin' L Guest Ranch, remembers Larry fondly as the first client who adjusted her daily menu to include more nutritious items — salad twice a day, and lots of fruits and veggies. "Larry Waters, I wish we could have visited before the Lord called you home!" she wrote via text after learning of his passing. "You are surely missed! Such a warrior for all the right reasons!"

Eventually, Larry passed the camp torch to take on the task of JBS development officer in 1995, and 10 years later he assumed the vice presidency of the organization. CEO Emeritus Arthur R. Thompson remembers that, "mostly due to Larry's efforts," the Society weathered a tumultuous year in 2005, and ever since, "our influence has grown substantially."

Larry retired in December 2012 after a 45-year tenure with JBS. But retirement could not contain him. Within two years, he contracted with the Society as a national development officer. He also served on its Board of Incorporators until declining health made it impossible for him to work further.

The Bridge Builder

Family and friends will always remember Larry as a vibrant teacher and skilled organizer. Of the memorials pouring in since his passing, many mention his honesty, patience, and sincerity, while others chuckle at his affinity for southern food, boiled peanuts, and the Dallas Cowboys. All will miss the beautiful tenor voice that graced many ensembles and quartets throughout the years, starting back in his college days.

Larry was a life-long member of the Church of Christ and was a devoted family man. His relatives express consolation that Larry is now rejoined with his beloved wife, Yvonne, who passed away in July 2014, just shy of their 42nd anniversary. His step-daughter, Melissa Locke, also preceded him in death. He is survived by step-daughter Becky Locke, who lovingly cared for him during his declining years, and step-son and daughter-in-law Chuck and Paige Locke.

"Larry is the most loyal member of the Society I have ever encountered," was late JBS Vice President Tom Hill's conclusion, as President Emeritus John F. McManus remembers and agrees.

"While Larry may not have been known to every member, every member did enjoy the fruit of Larry's labors," notes JBS CEO Bill Hahn. "He mightily contributed to the rock-solid foundation from which we operate today, and will be greatly missed." ■

Officers Save Suicidal Woman

La Porte, Indiana, police officers Ryan Helmecy and Taylor Atkinson were honored for saving the life of a suicidal woman who threatened to jump from the U.S. 35 overpass on August 28.

On that fateful day, the woman was at the top of a chain-link security fence along the edge of the overpass while a bystander pleaded with her not to jump. The woman had made her way down the other side of the fence by the time Helmecy arrived. He rushed over, jumped on top of the fence, and grabbed the hysterical woman by the arm. He held on to her until Officer Atkinson was able to climb to the other side of the fence and grab hold of the woman. He did not let her go until she was rescued via the bucket on a fire truck below the overpass.

Police Chief Paul Brettin said the officers refused to let the woman go, despite her pleas for them to do that.

"They completely put their well-being aside to go over that fence and hang on," recalled Officer Adam Jaskowiak, who arrived on the scene in time to see it all unfold.

Homeless Man Comes to Girl's Rescue

When a first-grade special-needs student at Lantrip Elementary School in the Houston Independent School District wandered a mile away from her school, a nearby homeless man came to her aid.

Serenity Polk somehow managed to get away from the school during dismissal on September 28. Her frightened mother, Mercedes, knew something was wrong after being given the runaround by school staff for more than an hour after dismissal.

"They were saying she might be at the playground. She might be in the bathroom, but it was over an hour," Mercedes told Fox 26.

Serenity is deaf and visually impaired, so Mercedes was especially terrified at the notion of her being off school grounds on her own. Anxious thoughts pervaded her mind, she told the *Houston Chronicle*.

After an hour, Mercedes received a call from Houston police asking her to meet them at the local 7-Eleven, where her daughter had been located.

"[Serenity] was hysterically crying. Like, I really thought she was hurt," Polk said. "It hurt me. I'm still shaken up by it, actually. It's very terrifying."

Serenity told her mother that she was looking for their home, which was 30 minutes away. She then pointed to a homeless man, who she said helped her.

"A homeless man that holds the sign right there on Cullen and I-45 found my daughter," Mercedes said. "He contacted the school. The school went to get her. She wouldn't get in the car with them. So the school contacted the police. She wouldn't get in the car with the police and that's when they called me."

Mercedes explained that the man saw the name of the school on the child's shirt and contacted the school.

With Serenity found, school officials were able to get to the bottom of what happened. The Houston Police Department told Mercedes that the substitute teacher covering Serenity's class placed Serenity in the wrong line.

Mercedes is hoping to locate the man who helped her daughter.

Four Years Old and Already Altruistic

Four-year-old Carter Dominguez opened his own lemonade stand in Tonawanda, New York, and decided to donate all of his earnings to "sick kids," WKBW reported.

On September 27, Dominguez raised $262 after selling lemonade all day. He decided to give the money to the Variety Club, an organization that assists children with illnesses, disabilities, and other disadvantages by donating to several children's charities and hospitals.

First responders stopped by Carter's stand on September 27, and firefighters gave him a chance to use the fire hose.

Carter told WKBW that he wants to be both a firefighter and a police officer when he grows up.

Starbucks "Mom" Gets Surprise From Her "Kids"

A popular "motherly" Starbucks barista in Huntington, West Virginia, got the surprise of her life from store patrons and colleagues after her car was burglarized.

Karen Collinsworth has been a supervisor at the Starbucks on the Marshall University Campus for decades, and has created a feeling of family at the shop that many college students enjoy when they stop in for coffee.

"I love coming into work knowing that she's gonna be there. I talk to her about literally everything," Cassie Gray, a sophomore at Marshall who works at Starbucks, told *Today*. "She's like my mom when I'm away from home and can't talk to my mom."

When Collinsworth's car was burglarized and parts were stolen from the vehicle, Gray and her colleagues at the store decided they wanted to do something to help.

They created a GoFundMe fundraiser on August 26 in the hopes of helping pay to fix her car — which had always had mechanical problems — and replace the parts that were stolen. The fundraising page was shared on a variety of social-media outlets, and the results were astonishing. The $10,000 goal was easily passed, with the page amassing a heaping $40,000.

"I was taken aback when I found out. It was very overwhelming. I knew these kids loved me because I love them," Collinsworth said. "But for them to be 19-year-old college students.… They have so much going on in their life, but then to take care of their Starbucks mom, Karen. That's just how big their hearts are."

The largest donation was $5,000, from Marshall University President Brad Smith.

"All the $5 donations meant more to me than $1,000 or $3,000," Collinsworth says. "It was just precious coming from these college kids that can't afford a cup of coffee. Just goes to show you their kindness." ■

— Raven Clabough

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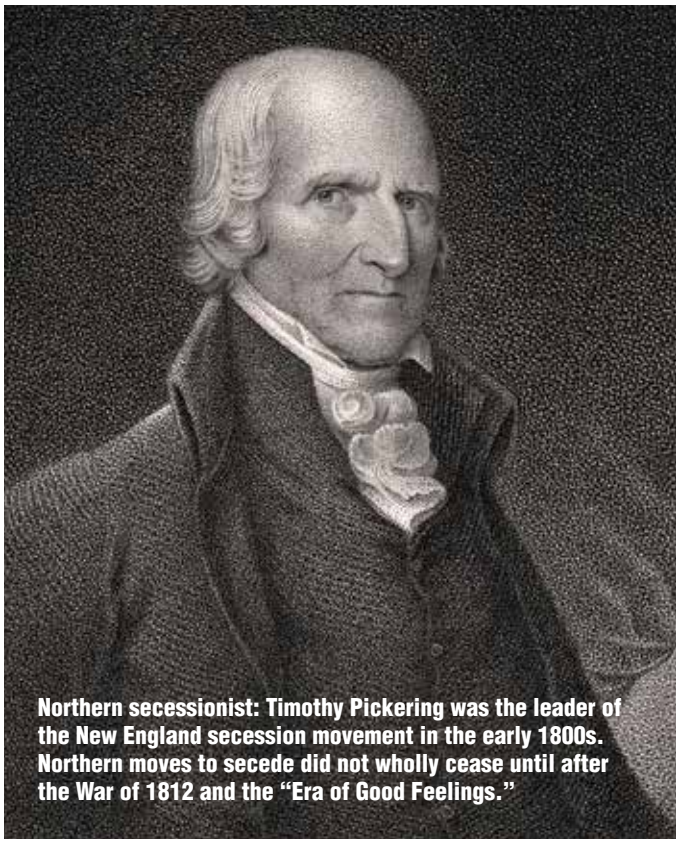
The Tariff of Abominations and the Era of Good Stealings

The 1820s saw a healing of divisions in the new American Republic, but discord soon resurfaced as a result of protective tariffs and crony capitalism, which contributed to the War Between the States.



Northern secessionist: Timothy Pickering was the leader of the New England secession movement in the early 1800s. Northern moves to secede did not wholly cease until after the War of 1812 and the "Era of Good Feelings."

archives.gov

by Thomas DiLorenzo

Few Americans seem aware of the fact that it was the New England Federalists who plotted to secede from the Union a half-century before the 1860-61 secession of the Southern states. Their efforts culminated in the Hartford Secession Convention of 1814, where they decided in the end to remain in the Union, confident that they would eventually dominate national politics to their economic advantage.

The leader of the New England secessionists was Massachusetts Senator Timothy Pickering, who had been George Washington's adjutant general and quartermaster general during the American Revolution and served as secretary of state and secretary of war in the Washington administration, a member of Congress from Massachusetts, and secretary of state in the John Adams administration. He was joined in his secessionist efforts by such Federalist Party luminaries as Elbridge Gerry, John Quincy Adams, Joseph Story, Fisher Ames, Harrison Gray Otis, Josiah Quincy, Theodore Sedgwick, and other prominent New Englanders. They were motivated by an intense hatred of Jefferson, his philosophy of limited, decentralized government, and the policies of his administration. It was Jefferson's election to the presidency in 1800 that spawned the New England secession movement.

As historian James Banner wrote in his book *To the Hartford Convention: The Federalists and the Origins of Party Politics, 1789-1815*, the Federalists denounced Jefferson and his administration as supposedly being plagued by "falsehood, fraud, and treachery," along with "oppression and barbarity," and accused him of causing "ruin among nations." New England clerics attached to the Federalist Party compared Jefferson to Beelzebub who had caused "a moral putrification that covers the land," wrote Banner. Jefferson biographer Claude Bowers wrote of how many New England clerics were in fact "militant Federalists" hiding behind their clerical collars who "habitually denounced" Jefferson as "an anti-Christ" and hated him "with an unholy hate" because he stood in the way of their cherished goal of state-imposed Puritanism.

New England Federalists wanted to separate themselves from "the black population" of the Southern states. Timothy Pickering announced that should they secede, "the white and black population will mark the boundary." The Federalists believed strongly that homogeneity of race and "ethnic purity" were essential ingredients of a successful republic, and thought of themselves as "choice offspring of the choicest people, unpolluted by foreign blood," wrote Banner. Such master-race thinking is probably why Tocqueville wrote in his 1835 book *Democracy in America* that "the problem of race" (that is, anti-black racism) ironically appeared to be more prevalent in the North than in the South despite there being orders of magnitude more slaves in the South. Or why, as historian Joanne Pope-Melish wrote in *Disowning Slavery: Gradual Emancipation and Race in New England, 1780-1860*, by the early 1820s New Englanders commenced a policy of physically removing the small number of free blacks who lived among them. They did so by "assaulting

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their communities, burning down their homes, and attacking their advocates." They even dug up black graves in cemeteries. Professor Pope-Melish quoted Frederick Douglass on the treatment of black people by New Englanders of the early to mid-19th century as saying, "What stone has been left unturned to degrade us?"

This New England compulsion for "ethnic purity" is also why the Federalists were so outraged by Jefferson's Louisiana Purchase. "Our progenitors were choice scions from the best English stock," Federalist William Cunningham bloviated, unlike "the wild Irish and sour Germans" who had more recently arrived in America. The fact that so many Irish and German immigrants were Catholics was also deeply disturbing to Puritanical New Englanders.

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Cause for division: The Louisiana Purchase angered many in New England, who felt that "hordes of foreigners" would occupy the newly acquired territory. Shown are U.S. troops raising the flag over New Orleans.

Federalist William Stoughton declared that "God sifted a whole Nation that he might send choice Grain over into this wilderness." The Louisiana Purchase threatened to ruin all of that by inviting "hordes of foreigners" to occupy the newly purchased territory, as Banner explained.

Because of the Louisiana Purchase and its threat to New England "ethnic purity," Josiah Quincy declared that "the bonds of Union are virtually dissolved" and that "it will be the duty of some, to prepare for a separation [from the Mid-Atlantic and the South] amicably if they can, violently if they must." Pickering wrote to fellow Federalist George Cabot of the "depravity" of Jefferson and concluded that "the principles of our Revolution point to the remedy — a separation."

Thus, George Washington's secretary of state obviously considered secession to be *the* principle of the American Revolution and therefore a fundamental right that the citizens of every state possessed. At the time, Americans understood that the union of the states was voluntary, that the citizens of each state held political conventions to enter the Union *or not*, and that each state therefore had the right to leave the Union if it should interfere with the citizens' pursuit of "happiness," as stated explicitly in the constitutional ratification documents of Virginia, Rhode Island, and New York. The Jeffersonian dictum from the Declaration of Independence that governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed, and when they no longer consent it is their duty to abolish the government and replace it with a new one, was a matter of course for these early Americans. "I have little doubt," said Pickering, "that this [secession] can be accomplished without spilling one drop of blood," and that "Massachusetts would take the lead."

In 1807, Great Britain was at war with France and announced a policy that would "secure her own seamen wherever found," which included U.S. ships on the high seas. After a British warship captured the USS *Chesapeake* off Hampton Roads, Virginia, President Jefferson imposed a trade embargo as a temporary expedient and an alternative to another war with Great Britain. The embargo continued under his successor, James Madison, and it was harshly discriminatory against the growing New England shipping industry. This radicalized the New England secessionists even more, with the Massachusetts Legislature utilizing the Jeffersonian principle of nullification to declare that President Madison's Enforcement Act was "not legally binding."

When America was once again at war with Great Britain during the War of 1812, New England effectively seceded in a de facto sense by not participating. The Massachusetts Legislature said the war was "needless and unwise" and was causing "a wanton sacrifice of the interests of New England." "Let there be no volunteers" for the war, the Legislature advised.

These three things — the Louisiana Purchase, the embargo, and the War of 1812 — are what fueled the New England secession movement and spawned a deep North/South division in American politics. But the 1814 Hartford Secession Convention was captured by political careerists — professional politicians and party leaders — who were far less radical than the Federalist rank and file, and were more in line with the thinking of Pickering, et al. Secessionist John Lowell, Jr. explained that the party leaders opposed secession because it "would have severed their last chance for preferment at the national level."

In a bit of an understatement, Yale President Theodore Dwight complained that the party leaders "have not done as much as was expected of them by the great body

of the people of this State [Connecticut]." Throughout all of this, historian Edward Powell wrote in *Nullification and Secession in the United States*, "the right of a State ... to withdraw from the Union was ... not disputed." Having just fought a bloody war of secession from the British Empire, the founding generation was not about to turn around and create a British Empire-style government of their own. The Constitution would never have been ratified if they had. Lincoln's novel theory that the American Union was really more like a Soviet-style union from which there could never be any peaceful escape — a political Venus flytrap bound together by sacred and "mystic chords of union" — would not be invented for another 47 years.

The Era of Good Feelings

Legend has it that, following the War of 1812 and the end of the New England secession movement, another president from Virginia, James Monroe, went on a national goodwill tour in 1817 to unify the nation and strike a blow against political partisanship. The Federalist Party was imploding and would soon disappear altogether, with Monroe running unopposed for re-election in 1820. His goodwill tour appearance in Boston, the heart of the Federalist homeland, is said to have been celebrated with parades, banquets, and receptions. New Englanders wanted to be re-welcomed into "the great family of the union," wrote Monroe biographer Harry Ammon, creating a "new nationalism." Hence was the phrase "Era of Good Feelings" coined by a Boston journalist, essentially describing the time period of the Monroe administrations (1817-1825).

The Federalist Party may have disappeared, but the powerful political interests that it represented did not. Indeed, they are still dominant in American politics to this day, but under a different political party structure. As George Dangerfield wrote in *The Era of Good Feelings*, the Federalist Party was "the party of the mercantile, manufacturing, and investing interests," and these interests were very successful indeed during the rest of the 19th century and beyond in using the government for their own personal benefit. (They would do this primarily through the Whig, and then the Republican, Party). In fact, they did not even wait until the Monroe administration and all the talk of "good feelings" and nationalism had ended before succeeding in getting Congress to impose a series of historically high protectionist tariffs on imports that had the effect of plundering Southern agrarians with higher prices for farm tools, clothing, shoes, and dozens of other items for the benefit of Northern manufacturers who, being "protected" from foreign competition, raised prices on some items such as woolen blankets by 200 percent. As John C. Calhoun once sarcastically said, what "protectionism" protects Americans from is *lower* prices. "Good feelings" toward one's political adversaries is rare and fleeting indeed, at any time and in any place.

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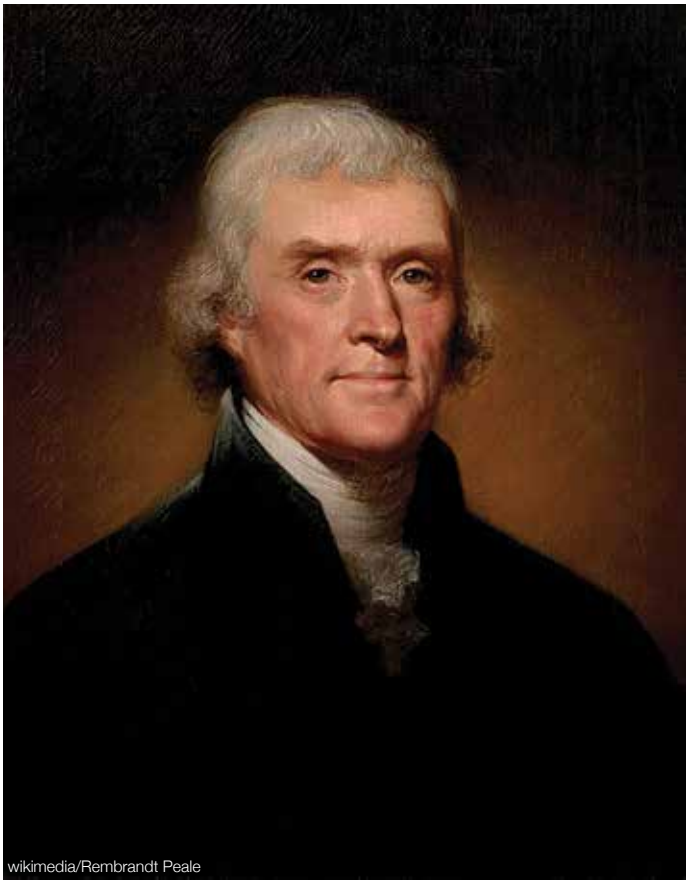

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Hated man: Jefferson was despised by many in New England for supposedly causing a "moral putrification" to cover the land. Northern Puritans wanted to secede and form a white ethno-state.

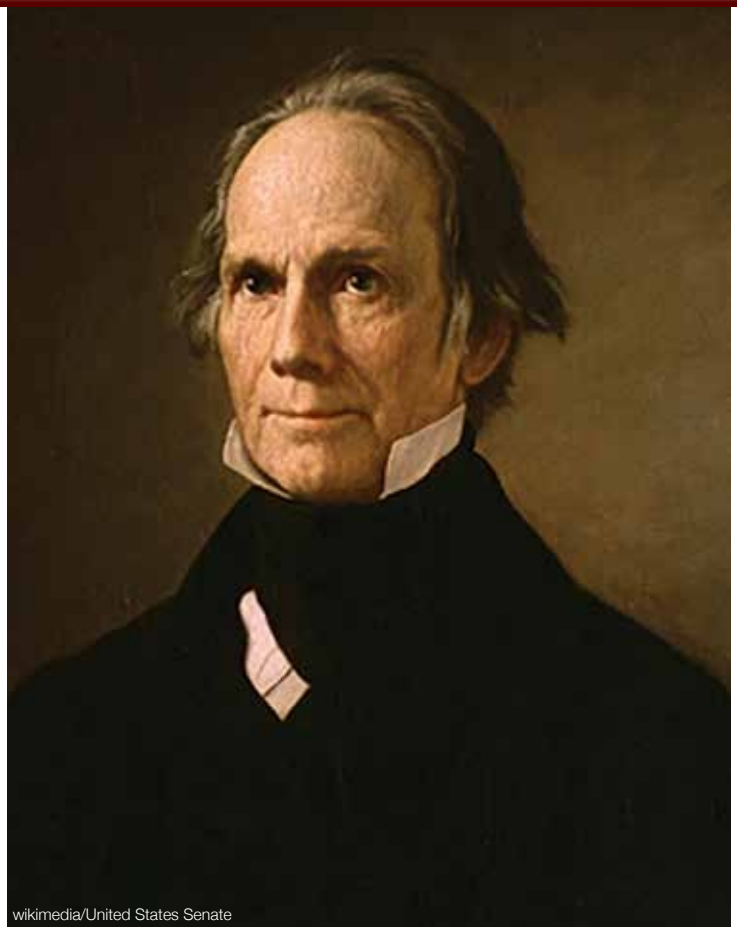
The Era of Good Stealings

When the American Whig Party was founded in 1834, Henry Clay would be its undisputed leader until his death in 1852. The Whig Party picked up the political mantle of the Federalists in that it, too, was the party of mercantile, manufacturing, and investing interests. Its economic platform was Alexander Hamilton's "American System" of protectionist tariffs, a national bank administered by politicians, and what we today call corporate welfare for road-, canal-, and railroad-building corporations. It was the party of mercantilism and crony capitalism, in other words, primarily for the benefit of Northern business interests (although there were also Southern Whigs).

Henry Clay owned a large hemp-growing slave plantation in Kentucky, and once said that he got into politics to procure protective tariffs on imported hemp and other things that competed with his hemp, along with tax-funded roads and canals to bring his hemp to market. For several decades he was the leader in Congress of the forces of pro-

tectionism, not just for hemp but also for Northern-state manufacturers in general. In 1824 he sponsored legislation to increase tariff rates on numerous products that about doubled the average tariff rate on imports.

The Jeffersonians of the South were immediately alarmed, for most of the increased tariffs were on manufactured products made in the North and the South was a solidly agricultural society. They viewed it as nothing but an instrument of plunder and an unconstitutional act in violation of the Constitution's dictum that taxes are to be uniform (for indirect taxes) and proportioned to the states according to population (for direct taxes). The votes on the Clay tariff in the House and Senate were starkly divided along regional lines. Of the 107 House votes in favor of the tariff, only three came from Southern states (2.8 percent). Of the 25 votes in the Senate in favor of the tariff, two came from Southern states (eight percent). In other words, as soon as the mercantile, manufacturing, and investing (MMI) class of the North mustered enough votes, they waged economic war on the agricultural South. There would be no more talk of "good feelings" in national politics — they fully intended to use the law to legally plunder their fellow citizens to the extent they could get away with it.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Crony capitalist: Kentucky politician and plantation owner Henry Clay was an early proponent of protectionist tariffs and government-funded infrastructure projects, all to help him increase his wealth.

Emboldened by their success with the 1824 tariff, the MMI class, led once again by Henry Clay, increased tariffs even further, to a historically high rate of nearly 50 percent on average in 1828. Southern members of Congress labeled it the "Tariff of Abominations." As recounted by historian Chauncy Boucher in *The Nullification Controversy in South Carolina*, South Carolina politicians denounced the highly protectionist tariff as a "usurpation" and a "system of robbery and plunder" that "made one section [the South] tributary to another [the North]," all so that "corrupt politicians of the North" could "buy up partisans and retain power." There were political voices in Virginia, North Carolina, and Alabama that joined South Carolina in denouncing the Tariff of Abominations, while its most vocal supporters were from Massachusetts, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Indiana, and New York, all of which issued resolutions in support of it, according to Boucher.

In November 1832, a political convention was held in South Carolina that adopted an ordinance of nullification (*South Carolina Ordinance of Nullification*, November 24, 1832) declaring that the Tariff of Abominations was "unauthorized by the Constitution of the United States, and violated the true meaning and intent thereof." As such, it is therefore "null, void, and no law, nor binding upon this State, its officers or citizens."

South Carolinians further announced that "we will not submit to the application of force on the part of the federal government, to reduce this State to obedience." Following in the footsteps of the New England Federalists (and of the American Revolutionaries), South Carolinians further announced that, should force be attempted by the federal government, it would be "inconsistent with the longer continuance of South Carolina in the Union." At that point, South Carolina would "forthwith proceed to organize a separate government, and do all other acts and things which sovereign and independent States may of right do," echoing the words of the Declaration of Independence.

The nullification ordinance authorized importers to recover any goods that had been impounded by federal tax collectors. Sheriffs were instructed to seize the personal property of the federal tax collectors and give it to the importers until their seized goods were returned, all duties were to be reimbursed to the importers with interest, federal tax collectors were subject to fines and imprisonment for attempting to resist the nullification ordinance, and no jail in the state could be used to imprison anyone for refusing to pay the new tariff. A fund of $200,000 was made available to the governor for the purpose of purchasing firearms, if necessary, to enforce the ordinance with the state militia.

President Andrew Jackson threatened to enforce the Tariff of Abominations, and there was talk of sending warships to Charleston Harbor, but in 1833 a compromise was reached that reduced tariff rates by more than half over the next 10 years, to levels more compatible with a "revenue tariff" that would be sufficient enough to fund the constitutional functions of the federal government, but not to block international competition solely for the benefit of the perpetually plotting MMI class. Nullification had worked precisely as South Carolina Senator John C. Calhoun

said it would — forcing compromise between the sections and avoiding secession, keeping the Union intact.

Tariff of Abominations 2.0

The 1833 compromise lowered the average tariff rate to the 20-percent range over a 10-year period. As soon as the 10 years were up, the MMI cabal garnered enough votes through the new hyper-protectionist Whig Party to *double* the average tariff rate yet again, to the 40-percent range. They did this with the Tariff of 1842, which came to be known as the Black Tariff. Predictably, imports fell precipitously, and some items, such as iron rails used for railroad beds, increased in price by some 80 percent. Politically connected Pennsylvania iron rail manufacturers profited handsomely at the expense of railroads and their customers.

Southern states were once again being plundered, since they had far less manufacturing than the Northern states and had to pay significantly more for dozens of items. In addition, whenever imports fell, especially from Europe, Europeans had less ability to buy American products, which were primarily agricultural products. The Southern states at the time sold one-half to three-fourths of all their cotton, tobacco, rice, and other agricultural products overseas. Southerners believed they were being plundered twice over: First by paying higher prices, and second as a result of a large portion of their overseas business drying up thanks to the protectionist Black Tariff. They also complained quite bitterly that most of the tariff revenue seemed to be spent in the North.

Protectionist tariffs were not the only tool of plunder during the Era of Good Stealings. The second plank of the old Alexander Hamilton/Federalist "American System" was what we today call "corporate welfare" or "pork-barrel spending."

In response, what was probably the very first public meeting in the South to seriously discuss secession was held on July 31, 1844 in the village of Bluffton, South Carolina, adjacent to Hilton Head Island. The organizer of the event, which took place under a large oak tree that to this day is known as the "Secession Oak," was Robert Rhett, a onetime U.S. congressman, U.S. senator, and attorney general of South Carolina. Rhett was a planter, and the purpose of the meeting, which attracted several hundred of South Carolina's wealthiest and most prominent citizens, was to oppose the Tariff of 1842. The writing must have been on the wall for the so-called Bluffton Boys, with the Northern-state MMI cabal so obviously hell-bent on plundering their fellow citizens with tariffs. The topic of secession was also on the table under the giant oak tree along the May River, but it eventually was dropped — for another 16 years anyway — when Senator John C. Calhoun voiced his disapproval.

South Carolinians were not the only ones incensed by the protectionist Tariff of 1842 and the machinations of the greedy, plundering, Northern MMI class and its new Whig Party political vehicle. The Whigs lost so many seats in Congress that the 1842 tariff rates were reversed by the Walker Tariff of 1846 (named after Secretary of the Treasury Robert J. Walker) and settled in the 25-percent range. They were subsequently lowered even further, so that on the eve of the Civil War, the average tariff rate was in the 15-percent range, the lowest point of the 19th century.

But, like the character Jason Voorhees in the *Friday the 13th* movies, the MMI cabal kept resurrecting itself from political death. Using the recession of 1857 as an excuse to prop up politically connected manufacturing industries, the cabal succeeded in getting the protectionist Morrill Tariff passed during the 1859-1860 session of Congress, prior to the Southern secession movement. It was signed into law by President James Buchanan four days before Abraham Lincoln took the oath of office, and more than doubled the average tariff rate to the 32-percent range. Lincoln himself would then sign 10 tariff-raising bills during his administrations, after which the average tariff rate was in the 60-percent range. It remained in the

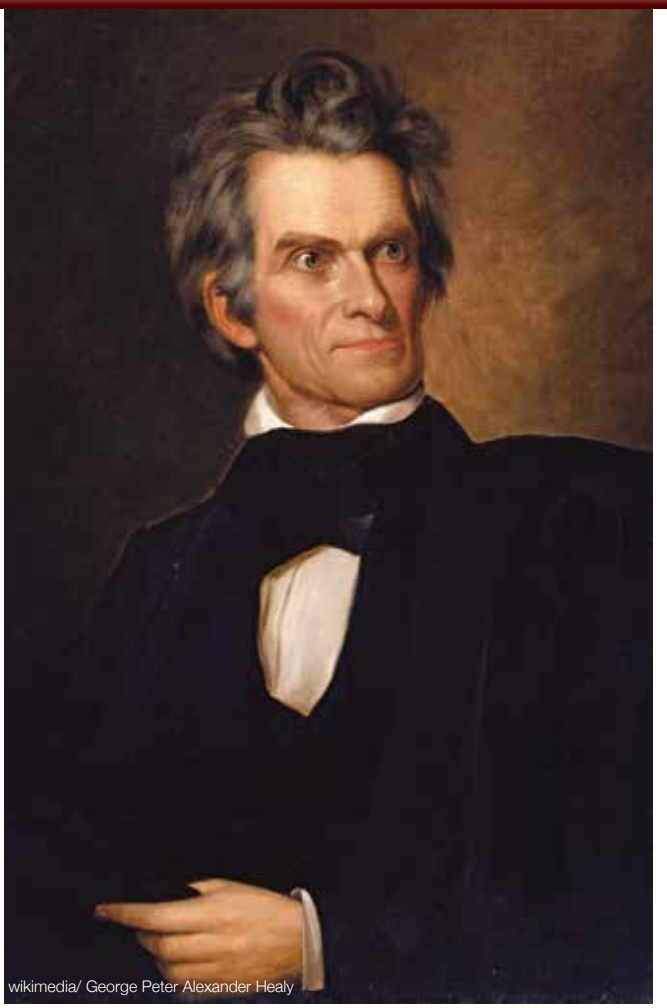
wikimedia/Jrosenberry1

Working on the railroad: Iron for railroad tracks was an early item that was protected by tariffs. Pennsylvania iron makers greatly benefited from such tariffs, at the expense of other segments of the economy that were used to purchasing imported iron.

50- to 60-percent range until the federal income tax was adopted in 1913, after half a century of Republican party/MMI class federal political hegemony.

Protectionist tariffs were not the only tool of plunder during the Era of Good Stealings. The second plank of the old Alexander Hamilton/Federalist "American System" was what we today call "corporate welfare" or "pork-barrel spending." President after president, beginning with Jefferson and Madison, decided that spending tax dollars on corporations for any purpose was unconstitutional, with Madison vetoing such legislation on his very last day in office, so the MMI class focused its efforts at the state level.

During the 1830s, numerous states spent millions subsidizing building projects related to roads, canals, and railroads despite the fact that there were already thousands of miles of privately funded roads ("turnpikes") and even local railroads in parts of the country. In state after state, very little if anything was ever completed, much of the money was unaccounted for, and taxpayers were burdened with huge government debts that they were responsible for.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Avoiding secession: Senator John C. Calhoun of South Carolina proposed nullification of the Tariff of Abominations, which was strongly opposed in the South. The South's nullification worked, and secession was avoided — for a time.

As leader of the Whig Party in Illinois, a young Abraham Lincoln was instrumental in getting the Illinois Legislature to allocate $12 million to road and canal-building projects in the early 1830s. It was a financial disaster. As Lincoln's personal secretaries George Nicolay and John Hay wrote, "The market was glutted with Illinois bonds; one banker and one broker after another, to whose hands they had been recklessly confided in New York and London, failed, or made away with the proceeds of the sales. The system had utterly failed ... and a crushing debt rested upon a people who had been deceiving themselves."

Similar financial debacles occurred in Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Maine, New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Iowa, Kentucky, Kansas, California, and Oregon, as described by historian Carter Goodrich in *Government Promotion of American Canals and Railroads, 1800-1890*. In most of these states, wrote Goodrich, *nothing* was completed. By the 1870s, he wrote, every state except for Massachusetts had *amended its state constitution* to prohibit the expenditure of state tax dollars on corporations for *any* reason. The Confederate Constitution of 1861 had done the same.

Normal American citizens could look at this and conclude that corporate welfare is a bad idea and an arguably criminal abuse of tax dollars. But to the political class and its MMI cabal benefactors, it was a *great* idea. Being able to ladle out millions (or billions) in taxpayer dollars to the moneyed classes was always the pipe dream of Alexander Hamilton (and his political heirs such as Henry Clay and Abraham Lincoln), who believed that such gambits were a sure route to perpetually enhancing the powers of government, presumably in the hands of people such as themselves. Consequently, during the Lincoln administration, with the Republican Party wedded to the Northern-state MMI class, the federal government spent many orders of magnitude *more* on corporate welfare for the government-subsidized transcontinental railroads than all of the states had previously spent.

As Dee Brown wrote in his classic history of the transcontinental railroads, *Hear That Lonesome Whistle Blow: The Epic Story of the Transcontinental Railroads*, when Lincoln signed the Pacific Railway Bill into law, he "assured the fortunes of a dynasty of American families ... the Brewsters, Bushnells, Olcotts, Harkers, Harrisons, Trowbridges, Lanworthys, Reids, Ogdens, Bradfords, Noyeses, Brooks, Cornells, and dozens of others." Predictably, the result was the biggest financial political scandal in American history up to that point, the Credit Mobilier scandal during the Grant administration, with all of its graft, theft, and self-dealing by the political class and its MMI-class patrons.

The corporate executives of the Credit Mobilier company billed the government for some $44 million more than the cost of building the railroad, and pocketed the money — and that was after construction costs were hugely inflated. The company president, former Congressman Oakes Ames, bribed members of Congress with cash and discounted stock that they were guaranteed to be able to sell at higher prices in return for their votes for additional subsidies. Although this was shocking to the public at the time, today it seems like an almost daily news article. (As far as I know, Oakes Ames never bribed a politician or family member of a politician with Porsches or gold bars). ■

Father-son Bonding Time

The *Las Vegas Review Journal* reported on September 27 about an attempted burglary that was fatal for one of the burglars.

It was around 9:00 a.m. when a 70-year-old man discovered two men trying to break in to the rear of his Clark County home. He alerted his son, who quickly retrieved a loaded firearm and shot at the suspects as they broke in to the home. The burglars, who were dressed all in black and wearing masks and gloves, fled from the home after being shot at; one of them collapsed in the backyard, where he died.

The father called 911 to report the break-in and the subsequent shooting, and police soon arrived. Police had received multiple calls about a vehicle driving at high speed in a nearby location, which ultimately crashed into other vehicles. They responded to the calls and discovered the driver was suffering from a gunshot wound to his leg. The wounded driver was taken to a nearby medical facility for treatment, and, because he matched the description of the suspect from the burglary and his gunshot wound matched the wounds of his alleged accomplice, he was placed in police custody. The investigation is ongoing, but law enforcement told the *Las Vegas Review Journal* that they did not expect there to be any charges against the father and son, who appear to have acted in self-defense. Police are also investigating similar burglaries that occurred in the area prior to the shooting to determine whether the suspects were the culprits.

8 News Now interviewed neighbors in the area, who voiced support for the actions of the father and son. Neighbor Kyle Stinnet told 8 News Now, "The same way the guy protected his home, I'll continue to protect it that way.… Having to shoot somebody because they are coming into your house wrongfully, that's something that doesn't sit well with anybody. You don't ever want to be put in that position."

Farmer and Fentanyl Addicts

Fox News reported on September 25 about a farmer who caught some alleged drug addicts while they were committing a felony. The incident occurred in Washington State, where farmer Sam Krautscheid had just finished working for the day. He was driving with his young sons in his truck to a country-music concert when he witnessed some suspicious activity at a farm store he leases. Krautscheid saw a car parked at the store even though the store was closed, and was already sensitive to potential crimes in the area due to a rise in drug addiction. He explained that when people are addicted to drugs, they can become desperate for quick money and start stealing things to sell to get money to buy more drugs. He had previously dealt with people trespassing on his farm and trying to steal things, so, he told Fox News, "I turned [the truck around], pulled around and parked … and walked over and looked in the car and there's a gas can in the passenger seat, it was a very small car. And in the back seat, had a massage table and a weed eater and some other items that screamed to me you know 'stolen items.'"

Krautscheid immediately suspected there was a robbery in progress, so he returned to his car and loaded his gun while dialing 911 to alert police of a potential robbery. "I was approaching the corner of the building; I saw an arm. I saw somebody jump back and I kind of cleared around the end of the building and there was one individual close to me," he told Fox News.

He explained that another man came running at him with a billy club, and that was when he pointed his gun at the two men and yelled at them to lie on the ground. One of the men complied, while the other man argued with Krautscheid and claimed he was there to rent the building. "The rear individual got down pretty quickly. The front individual stayed up for quite a bit, was somewhat defiant of the process and made me nervous to the point I felt I was probably a couple of seconds away from having to put one on the ground next to him to try to get them compliant. But, thank God, I didn't have to," he said.

Krautscheid held the two suspects at gunpoint until law enforcement arrived, and the men were taken into custody. The Grant County Sheriff's Office investigated the scene and collected enough evidence to arrest the suspects, later identified as 45-year-old Glenn Richard and 28-year-old Jesus Rangel, on second-degree burglary charges. Krautscheid's three young sons were sitting in his truck and witnessed the whole thing. "They could see me yelling and screaming, but they had no idea what I was dealing with. I didn't know if there was one person, two people, three people there." Krautscheid added, "I'm lucky because ... I've had handgun and self-defense training classes. But in this situation, I was focused on those two individuals. I had four houses and a yard behind me, and a building behind me, I am lucky nobody was back in there." The incident was "100% a prime example of why law-abiding Americans should embrace the Second Amendment," he told Fox News.

Krautscheid drafted a victim impact statement for the police, and shared it with Fox News. In the message, he encouraged those struggling with drug addiction to clean up their lives and turn to God: "God has bigger plans for you than the path you are on now…. I encourage you to take your lives back. Take the time to reflect and get the help you need while in jail. The resources are available, the choice is yours. Distance yourselves from bad friends and family members…. Ask God for his mercy on your prior behavior.... The devil wins by telling you that you are only as good as your past and have no hope. God's mercy is undeniable. God will forgive you for your sins and welcome you with open arms if you change your hearts."

Police were grateful for Krautscheid's actions, and explained that they welcome armed citizens assisting them with detaining suspects. Grant County Sheriff's Office spokesman Kyle Foreman explained to KPQ News that there are "many responsible gun owners here in Grant County and if they are outside protecting their property they can certainly hold someone at gunpoint and then call 911 to have us come and investigate and find out what those people are doing there." ■

— Patrick Krey

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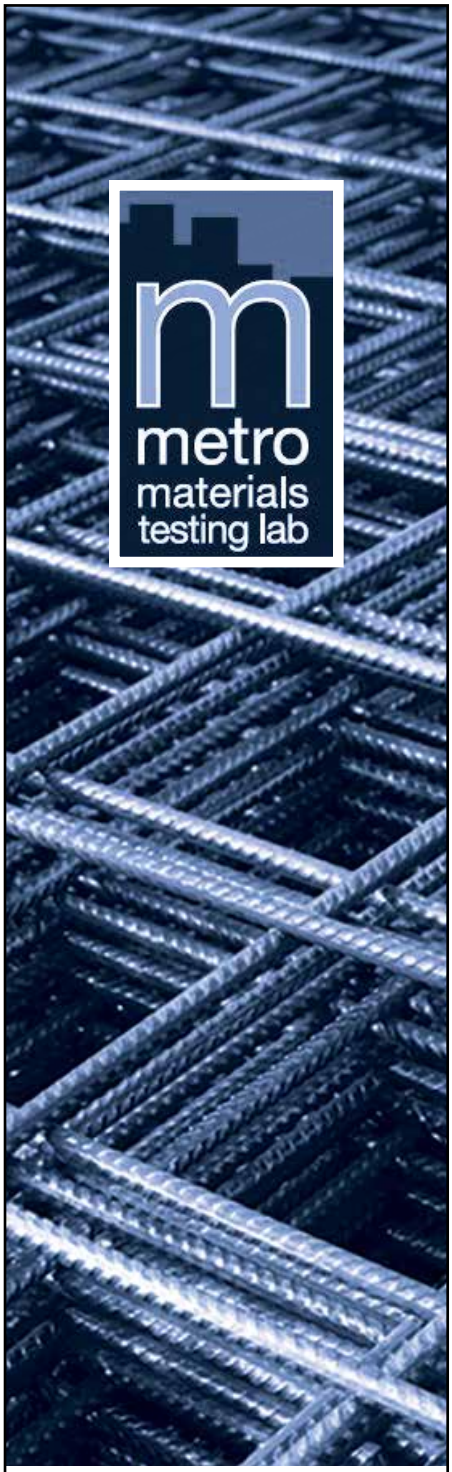

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THE REVIEW

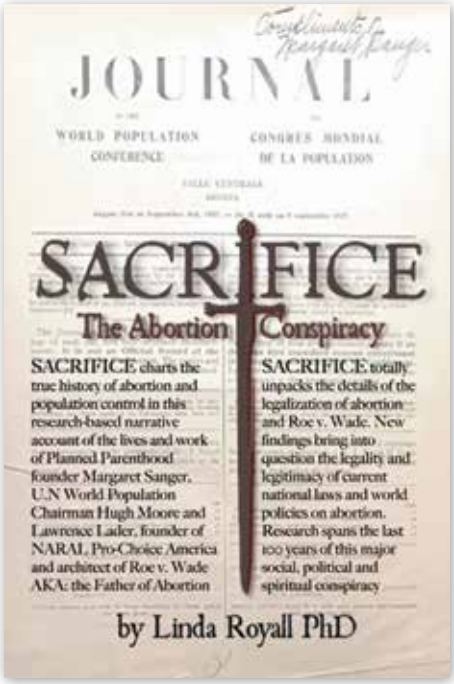
Abortion: A Conspiracy of Child Sacrifice

by Rebecca Terrell

Sacrifice: The Abortion Conspiracy, by Linda Royall, Ph.D., Washington, D.C.: The Sword and The Ring Publishing Co., 2023, 305 pages, paperback.

Editor's Note: The United States bears witness to between 75,000 and 95,000 elective abortions per month, according to the Guttmacher Institute, a research organization affiliated with Planned Parenthood. The other side of that coin is the number of women who have had those abortions. Many of them live with guilt, regret, grief, and other debilitating psychological and physical consequences. Neither this book review nor its subject are intended to condemn them. On the contrary, if you are among this number, we encourage you to take advantage of the many groups that offer hope and healing after abortion. Among these are Project Rachel, Rachel's Vineyard, and the H3 Helpline.

What kind of a monster would chop a helpless baby into pieces, or crush its skull and dismember its body? What wouldn't the beast deserve who would poison an infant with chemicals that induce slow, agonizing death?



As inconceivable as these crimes seem, they happen every day in abortion mills across our country and around the world. The first two describe procedures known as D&C (dilation and curettage) and D&E (dilation and evacuation). The latter denotes various forms of chemical massacre that kill through starvation, dehydration, brain hemorrhage, skin burns, and/or convulsions.

Incredibly, this violent slaughter of innocent children in the womb is an accepted norm. Mainstream narratives heartlessly call abortion a "right," though it is actually legalized murder.

The World Health Organization (WHO) identifies it as an "essential health service" — as if pregnancy is a disease that requires the death of another human being as its cure. The WHO estimates that some 73 million induced abortions take place worldwide annually. That godless agency even demanded its unrestricted availability during the otherwise-inflexible Covid lockdowns, a practice to which our own country rigidly adhered.

Yet until less than a century ago, America had proven herself to be staunchly pro-life. This trend had its roots in the early 19th century, when Connecticut passed the first state abortion ban in 1821. At its founding in 1847, the American Medical Association (AMA) condemned abortion as both immoral and medically dangerous. The 1873 Comstock Law, which outlawed using the U.S. Postal Service to send "obscene literature and articles of immoral use," included contraceptives and abortifacients among those instruments of vice. By 1900, laws in all states prohibited abortion, and those remained in place for more than 60 years.

Today, the AMA's *Principles of Medical Ethics* "permit physicians to perform abortions in keeping with good medical practice," according to the organization's

website. Only 15 states protect unborn life at conception, and some of those laws still make exceptions for rape, incest, and fetal abnormality — as if any of those are the childrens' fault. Nearly half of all states allow abortion until the moment of birth.

What an about-face! Within little more than half a century, the United States flipped from pro-life to pro-death. What happened to bring about such an extraordinary inversion?

Ungodly Propaganda

It was that question that investigative journalist Linda Royall set out to answer while researching her doctoral thesis in communication at Regent University more than a decade ago. "I wanted to find out the truth about [Planned Parenthood founder] Margaret Sanger and the communication that led to the acceptance of abortion as law of the land," she told *The New American*.

As she began her deep dive into Sanger's history, certain names "kept emerging" as key figures in the drama. One was that of Lawrence Lader, co-founder of the abortion lobby NARAL Pro-Choice America, and known among feminists as the "Father of Abortion Rights." He had been a famous war correspondent during World War II, having graduated in 1941 from Harvard University, where he founded that school's student newspaper, *The Harvard Crimson*.

Following the war, he continued writing for major publications and became a journalism professor at New York University, a position he held for several decades. "He trained a lot of the prominent journalists in the United States throughout the world-changing era" of the late 1950s through 1980, explains Royall. "Whatever he determined to take up as his cause, he was able to push that through this entire network of journalists," many of whom became household names.

Lader grew obsessed with Margaret Sanger in the 1950s, and became her protégé and official biographer. Knowing their close connection and Lader's influence over national media, Royall decided to focus on him.

Her instincts paid off. "I discovered an as-yet untapped archive in the New York public library of all of his personal papers," Royall recounts. "I knew I had hit a bingo when I discovered that those papers were confiscated 62 days after *Roe v. Wade* was legalized." *(Roe* is the infamous 1973 U.S. Supreme Court case that legalized abortion nationwide. Last year's *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* decision reversed it, making abortion once again a state issue.)

Royall relates that it was Lader himself who had these records sealed in an archive, intending them to remain shelved *in perpetuity*. However, all he could manage was a 25-year blackout. "Even after that, you had to be an academic working on a university-backed project [to see them]," said Royall. Luckily, she met that qualification, and believes she is the first person to access the archives. Royall says they "prove without a doubt that abortion was created for the purpose of world population control."

The Sanger Clinic in Brooklyn

Library of Congress

Incredibly, the archives contain Margaret Sanger's personal records, including handwritten diaries and datebooks, as well as an unpublished 1938 biography of her written by American pulp editor Harold Hersey. "She had forbidden it to be published," Royall notes, "and as far as I know, I'm the only person who has a copy of that book."

The cache of Lader's archive amounts to nearly 20,000 pages of documentation, which Royall condensed into her new book *Sacrifice: The Abortion Conspiracy.* It reveals the secret of how radicals made abortion mainstream.

The book begins with Sanger's journal accounts from her early days as a visiting nurse, concerned about poor women in New York City's Lower East Side losing their lives to botched at-home abortions. "She was an incredible woman," Royall admits, "intellectually, and with her personal passion for doing what was right. But somewhere along the way, she went from being a person who had a passionate cause in her heart for good, to being a person who was entirely consumed by evil."

Royall credits that fatal flaw to Sanger's relationship with English physician and eugenicist Havelock Ellis, who at the turn of the century published the radical and controversial six-volume *Studies in the Psychology of Sex*. "He is the person who coined the term 'transgenderism,'" explains Royall, "and he wrote about a day when gender would be fluid."

Ellis became one of Sanger's mentors, as did H.G. Wells and others in her bohemian social circles. Those men were also only two of an immense cadre with whom Sanger had sexual affairs. "She became involved with all these Marxists-atheists, and they totally skewed her ideology toward evil," Royall relates.

But Sanger kept her liaisons quiet to protect her birth-control enterprises, which were extraordinarily successful, thanks to the generous help of foundations such as those of John D. Rockefeller and Henry Ford, and, later, backing from the United Nations.

By these means, Sanger and her cronies established a stranglehold on policymakers in this country and worldwide. Their advocacy of eugenics and forced sterilization inspired Hitler as well as the formation of the UN Fund for Population

Activities (now the UN Population Fund). So pervasive was their influence that, as Lader's archives revealed, NARAL became the primary influence over the U.S. Supreme Court's 1973 *Roe* decision.

"According to Justice [John] Roberts, the most egregious compromise of interest he has ever seen in all of his days on the bench was when he discovered, through these documents that we found, that Justice [Harry] Blackmun was advised by the attorney for NARAL, and by him only," Royall said. Blackmun was the Supreme Court author of *Roe v. Wade*.

In it, he cited Lader's misleading, error-ridden 1966 book *Abortion* more than a dozen times. Royall was able to disprove Lader's fraudulent reporting and show that his fabrications formed "the basis and foundation of *Roe v. Wade*." She shared her findings with *Dobbs* attorneys.

"In the overturn of *Roe v. Wade*, every single point made by the Mississippi [*Dobbs*] attorneys included information from this book," states a gratified Royall. She is happy to know that her efforts have helped save thousands of lives since that time. "And we're hoping this will spread all over the world," she says.

However, her goal is to save more than just individual lives, and the name of the book indicates that overarching objective. Asked why she chose "Sacrifice" as the main title, she explains, "I came up with it from a Biblical term used in regard to Moloch, the fertility god. Babies were sacrificed to that god."

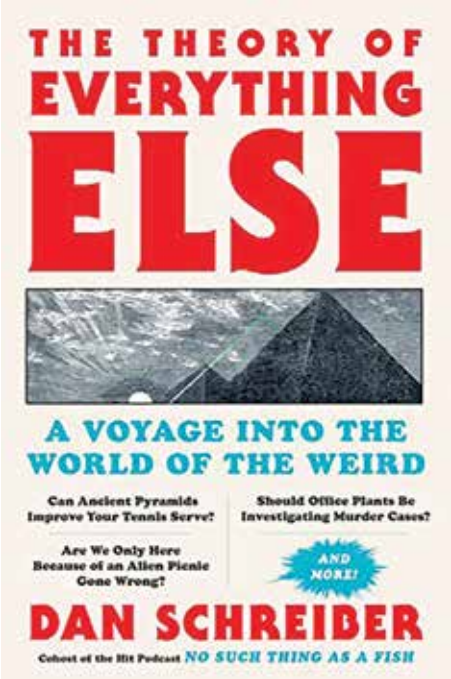
Various cultures throughout history followed suit. Royall writes that a series of apparitions by Mary, the mother of Jesus, in Guadalupe (now Mexico City) in 1531 brought an end to the gruesome practice and led to the conversion of the Aztec nation. She calls Our Lady of Guadalupe the "patron saint" of her book, viewing abortion as a continuation of the brutality of child sacrifice. "I decided what this has been, is a sustained sacrifice to Satan of all these babies all these years, and this sacrifice has kept Satan within our culture," Royall explains. "Once we do away with infant sacrifice, then this nation and the world can return to God."

The book is available for purchase at LindaRoyall.com, where visitors can learn more about her research and related projects. ■

Tasty Dessert of Kooky Ideas

by William P. Hoar

***The Theory of Everything Else: A Voyage Into the World of the Weird*,** by Dan Schreiber, New York: William Morrow, 2023, 368 pages, hardcover.



The world looks brighter from behind a smile, a giggle, a chuckle. If you're lucky, the chortles might escalate to splitting sides. Prepare yourself: A juicy range of morsels, from antic to zany, are on the menu of this book.

For the most part, the author isn't sneering or nastily poking fun at those described, however flaky, strange, or idiosyncratic they might seem to others. The response is up to you. Indeed, some may not see anything overly wacky about a few of the examples.

(If you are an athlete, do you tempt the fates by changing the number of times you dribble a basketball before taking a free throw? Or do you purposely hop over the chalk line on a baseball field? As this reviewer recalls vividly: When fans of the 2004 Boston Red Sox were trying to help break their team's 86-year Curse of the Bambino, many were suspicious about those who were not at least a bit superstitious. Such readers might see matters a little differently while reading a book chapter about curses.)

Indeed, the author issues a disclaimer, warning that he doesn't take responsibility for what we might think about his offerings. He insists that readers do not believe in a single one of the ideas that he presents, even while acknowledging that all of "the theories in this book want you to believe in them."

There's plenty to pick from — from clairvoyants, to Hollow-Earthers, to a prominent tennis player drawing the power of alien pyramid energy in Bosnia. (This includes a photo of Novak Djokovic gathering mystic energy — perhaps supernatural doping — from what gloomy geologists insist is a natural hill phenomenon.)

What's on deck is a certifiable cabinet of curiosities. While this reviewer was devouring the pages, it seemed that he could hear Hamlet saying in one ear, "There are more things in heaven and earth, Horatio,/ Than are dreamt of in your philosophy," while in the other ear came the phrase, "inquiring minds want to know." Then you run smack into a bottom drawer of the cabinet about "Rumpology." (We'll get back to that one.)

What's in other drawers certainly could be called loco, cuckoo, nuts, bonkers, bananas, demented, loopy, or unhinged. However, what the author specifically builds his case around is a species of *guano*, the English version, rendered a goodly number of times as batsh*t, albeit without the asterisk. In fact, the entire first part of the book is "The Importance of Being a Little Bit Batsh*t." He contends that is what makes the world go round.

At issue, we are reminded, are not facts — but "ideas, speculations, beliefs, and claims, begging to be accepted as true." So, we learn about (and the theories get fleshed out) people who made it to the top in some regards, but then we "bump into a little bit of batsh*t." Here are a few that are representative, per the author:

> The last book that Dracula author Bram Stoker wrote included a chapter pushing his theory that Queen Elizabeth I was secretly a man. The

first expedition Edmund Hillary went on after scaling Mount Everest was in search of the Yeti (a mythical creature that is believed to exist by both Jane Goodall and David Attenborough, among others). Guglielmo Marconi, the pioneering inventor of radio, believed sounds never died, but just got softer, and spent the last years of his life dreaming of a device to track down Christ's Sermon on the Mount.

You can zip hither and yon — among such chapters as "The Exorcism of Ringo Starr," "Where Have All the Pubic Lice Gone?," "Do Ghosts Fly Business Class?," "How to Discover the Knobs of Mars," and "How Isaac Newton Hollowed Out the Earth."

There's a lot of research in evidence, as well as just plain amusements. (Additional footnotes are available online; the book, sadly, has no index.) Throughout, readers encounter droppings of that aforementioned bat guano.

Dan Schreiber

The Theory of Everything Else

Exorcism Gives "Beat" to The Beatles

One supposes that the "exorcism" of drummer Ringo Starr could be considered a work-related incident; even fans of the wildly popular Beatles may be unaware of this experience. It involved the then-young man and his grandmother, who was nicknamed "the voodoo queen of Liverpool." It seems that she aimed to break his left-handedness — considering that could be an indication that Ringo was possessed by the devil. Indeed, her efforts helped turn him right-handed, at least for a while, which in turn meant that he had a right-handed drum kit. However, when they no longer lived together, the left hand again began to lead. The combination of right-handed kit and left-hand lead gave him a unique style dubbed the "Ringo swing" by other drummers.

As noted in *The Theory of Everything Else: A Voyage Into the World of the Weird*, it was that style that marked The Beatles "from other groups of their time. It's what gave the Beatles their *beat*, and it's all thanks to an exorcist in Merseyside."

An inquiring mind might wonder if the switch-back led to Ringo being repossessed. But perhaps we should just, ahem, let it be. Still, there are other accounts in the book to tease Beatlemaniacs — such as when Paul McCartney was convinced that John Lennon was recording with the other band members — a tough gig considering that he had been killed 14 years earlier.

According to the publisher, author Dan Schreiber has made his career by combining interesting facts with comedy. He is also the co-host of the most streamed podcast in the U.K., *No Such Thing as a Fish*. *The Theory of Everything Else* was first published in the U.K. by Mudlark, then in this country by William Morrow. Though there are other English-related accounts and the author lives in London and has a history with the BBC, the volume does go further afield — even beyond our time and planet.

For example: What is the origin of mankind? Looking in our rear-view mirror, we see that physicist Lord Kelvin appeared to believe we originated from outer space. A Cornell University professor named Thomas Gold in the 1960s somewhat similarly proposed the "cosmic garbage theory." In case you missed that one in school, Schreiber paraphrases a bit, explaining that theory intimates that "billions of years ago some aliens pit-stopped on our ancient planet for a picnic, and then didn't tidy up properly." (While the book does have a lot of photographs, this one is just depicted with an illustration. Picnicking aliens must have been camera-shy.)

In the same vein, DNA co-discoverer Francis Crick and biochemist Leslie Orgel wrote a paper in 1973 theorizing that life on Earth was "deliberately seeded by aliens." Then there was Arthur C. Clarke, who, as the author puts it, suggested that life here was made when "stray faeces" were "ejected from an alien craft that then plummeted to Earth." (Personally, this reviewer found Clarke's science fiction much more palatable than this theory from his article entitled "Toilets of the Gods.")

Famous Son, Cheeky Mom

Well, since we are in the neighborhood, let's circle back to a bit more about "Rumpology" — which was the word coined by Jacqueline Stallone, the astrologist mother of well-known Hollywood actor Sylvester Stallone. This chapter (covering unlikely oracles) does have a photograph — but fear not, it's only a head-and-shoulder shot of the seer. We learn that her son — of *Rocky* and *Rambo* fame — is also a believer in reincarnation; he usually consulted with Mom about movie projects. One gathers that even a star needs to know what the stars say.

We'll spare you too many details about her practice, but a full reading was said to be quite expensive. "Fortunately," comments Schreiber, "she also offered a one-cheek-only service at just $300." And, just for reference, here's what else we learn about the business's bottom line: "The left cheek lets you look into your past, while the right cheek affords a peek at your future."

Now, let's make an awkward transition from the "Italian Stallion" to an Italian seismologist. To do so we'll skip over Nostradamus among the dispensers of predictions. Less known is a guy who was credited for predicting earthquakes; he first became famous in 1924 for "almost successfully" predicting the date for a quake (missing by just two days). Apparently, Raffaele Bendandi — an "Italian self-proclaimed professional of 'seismogenics' (a word he coined)" — got two other predictions correct.

Benito Mussolini, writes Schreiber, "who was dictator at the time, was so im-

pressed that he bestowed a knighthood on Bendandi. However, he also banned him from making any more public predictions as they had annoying consequences."

Sly, eh? During an earthquake, you may know where the fault is, but you can't blame anyone.

Putting Plants on Polygraphs

You can land on virtually any page and find something that is diverting or weird, or both. Lack of space allows us only to hint at the eccentric former U.S. Army Counter Intelligence Corps/Central Intelligence Agency official who was driven, among other activities, to put plants on lie detectors (shown by a photo). He even subjected them to "good cop/bad cop" routines. As his experiments evolve, telepathic communication is alleged. This odd fellow (Cleve Backster), in the author's words, "must have felt like the Doctor Dolittle of fruit and veg." Criminal investigations were, if he succeeded, to be revolutionized with his "new breed of plant-based police officers." Why not? I can see celery going undercover: After all, they're good at stalking.

There's a tidbit about the rocket scientist (Wernher von Braun) who predicted the future ruler of Mars. Granted, this one is fiction-based, as opposed to many of the other outlandish accounts. Many are aware that von Braun was the chief architect of the Saturn V launch vehicle that propelled the Apollo spacecraft to the Moon. He's less-known for his 1952 science-fiction book, *Mars Project*. Schreiber quotes from that earlier book about the presumed government on the Red Planet and its imagined leader named "Elon." Then we read that it was not until late December of 2020 "that tech billionaire, and infamous mission-to-Mars enthusiast, Elon Musk learnt of this after someone tweeted it to him." Clearly, Musk was pleased — "later changing his Twitter bio to 'imperator of Mars.'"

The book includes multiple astronaut-related accounts, and we hesitate to be spoilers of these. But, just for luck, here's one that relates to the ill-fated Apollo 13 in 1970, the third mission meant to land on the Moon. Many, relates Schreiber, blamed superstition for what ensued (the mission was aborted after a rupture in the service module oxygen tank). In his words, "It was Apollo *13*, after all." (Emphasis in original.)

Not only that, he continues, "lift-off was at 13:13 p.m. And one of its crew, Jack Swigert, was the 13th astronaut in the Apollo programme. It was Swigert who clicked the switch that led to the explosion on board. Swigert flicked the switch two days after launch, on April 13."

Of course, some folks are just unlucky — such as the guy who was on stand-by for Noah's Ark.

Going for a dip in another chapter ("Will We Ever Speak Dolphinese?"), we find it was the American taxpayer who got unlucky — being stuck with at least part of the bill for Dr. John Lilly, a neuroscientist who became interested in the consciousness of and communication with other species. He even had a manifesto calling for a Cetacean Nation.

Apparently, NASA (the National Aeronautics and Space Administration) thought this would be helpful should we have contact with aliens from another world. As described in *The Theory of Everything Else*, "Using NASA funding, Lilly aimed to teach dolphins to speak the English language so perfectly that they would be given a chair at the United Nations to speak on behalf of all marine mammals."

For a finale, let's opt for an episode with a happier ending — about the "President Who Stopped His Own Assassination." It provides details about a Secret Service agent named Jerry Parr, and his quick actions in March of 1981 when President Reagan was shot. As related by Schreiber, according to doctors, if Reagan had arrived at the hospital five minutes later, he would have died. It was Parr's decision to rush him to the hospital that was credited with saving the president's life.

The only reason, says the author, that Parr was there that day

> to save Reagan was because he became obsessed with a film that his father took him to see at the cinema called Code of the Secret Service. The star of which was … Ronald Reagan.
>
> "Did you know you were an agent of your own destiny?" Parr later asked Reagan, as the president lay recovering in his hospital bed.

Readers need not believe in destiny or other theories that are shared in this sometimes bizarre and generally entertaining book, but they surely provide much to wonder about during the voyage. ■

White House Photographic Office

Ronald Reagan moments before 1981 assassination attempt

TAKING ACTION

Keeping America Free and Safe

by William S. Hahn, CEO of The John Birch Society

Moussa81/iStock/Getty Images Plus

The brutal attack on Israel by Hamas offers Americans a few lessons.

First, don't be naïve and think this couldn't happen here. While Israelis have a certain level of familiarity with rocket attacks by Hamas terrorists, very few expected what occurred on October 7. As documented in the video *No Place to Hide: The Strategy & Tactics of Terrorism* produced by the Western Goals Foundation in 1982, the United States saw plenty of attacks by mostly domestic, but some international, terror groups in the 1960s and 1970s, a time when leftists were trained and organized for violence hoping to kick-start civil wars on several continents. Where will the violence of war in the Middle East now take us?

The 2020 riots involving Black Lives Matter and Antifa provided a more recent example of how quickly widespread violence and destruction can occur when the perpetrators are organized. A great cause for concern are terrorist "sleeper cells" within the United States, especially since our borders are wide open. Many of the recent migrants are of military age. No one knows for sure who they are, why they are here, or where they went — and local police are often prevented from finding out, especially in sanctuary cities.

A hallmark of liberty is the concept of local police protecting and serving the communities in which they live, as opposed to national police enforcing central-government dictates. Prior to the 1980s, many police departments in large metropolitan areas had their own intelligence squads that tracked violent groups. Today that is no longer the case, as the federal government has usurped that power and unconstitutionally transferred it to federal agencies, which have unwisely spawned fusion centers in all 50 states and many U.S. territories. Fusion centers officially link federal intelligence agencies with state and local police departments. This relationship is fraught with danger, as can be seen in the most recent example of the federal Department of Justice focusing its attention on political opponents of the Biden administration instead of actual threats. A government weaponized against its own citizens leaves no place to hide.

Another lesson we can learn from the attacks in Israel is the importance of an armed citizenry. Heroic examples are just starting to come out of Israel. Inbal Rabin-Lieberman was alarmed by the first wave of rockets, so she armed 12 others and set them up into ambush positions; they repelled Hamas forces, killing at least 25 terrorists. No one in her community was killed, while other nearby communities took heavy losses. This is the answer to the question of why anyone needs an AR-15. Not only should citizenry have unfettered access to firearms, but they should have full access to military arms. Where do you draw the line? Well, what can you afford?

Finally, the concept of American exceptionalism must be understood, maintained, and protected by citizens in order to keep this great experiment of self-governance and freedom going. This exceptionalism is our system of government that provides for the common defense and general welfare of the United States.

The Founding Fathers finely balanced freedom with government. They knew that too much government would bring tyranny, and too little government would bring anarchy. They also understood how government gets tyrannical when loosed from its constitutional moorings, and how damaging foreign entangling alliances could be. These entanglements now constitute the main tool globalists are using to merge blocs of countries under regional government, stripping away sovereignty.

President George Washington said it best: "The great rule of conduct for us in regard to foreign nations is in extending our commercial relations, to have with them as little political connection as possible.... It is our true policy to steer clear of permanent alliances with any portion of the foreign world."

The John Birch Society is a true grassroots organization that actively pursues the Founding Fathers' advice of educating the people to keep the Republic. Join and work with other members in your community to keep our country free and our neighborhoods safe. Start at JBS.org. ■

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DVDSCSCMP

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